# **You’ve been referred for a Radiology test**

**Why am I having a Radiology test?**

* + Scans and X-rays provide a detailed picture of anatomy and can be a useful part of forming a diagnosis.

**What happens after I have had the radiology test?**

* + It takes approximately 4 weeks to receive, review and update patients on radiology tests that do not show any concerning findings. If something concerning were to be found, the results are fast-tracked.
  + To update you, we will either:

1. Write to you with the results and a treatment plan (which may be via copying you into a referral letter we are sending to another healthcare service). If we are referring you to a new service, this will be somewhere we’ve already discussed and written to you about.
2. If the radiology test hasn’t helped explain your symptoms, we will call you or book you an appointment.

**Making sense of routine results**

* + Radiology tests, especially MRI scans, show muscles, joints, bones, and discs in lots of detail. As such, it is completely normal to see these structures change as we go through adult life. These changes are usually not a problem and often do not cause pain.
  + Radiology results often include a lot of jargon. Don’t worry if some of it doesn’t make sense, a clinician will have reviewed the report to ensure that there are no concerning findings and analysed the findings to plan the most suitable next steps.
  + You will have the opportunity to discuss the results in more detail at your follow up appointments, this could be with our team or a hospital team depending on the treatment preferences you discussed in your appointment.

**Not sure what’s happening next?**

* + It’s important to remember that radiology tests can’t tell exactly why you’re in pain and they can’t tell us what the most suitable treatment is on their own. Similar findings on a scan may end up with different management, depending on someone’s symptoms and treatment preferences.
  + To select a suitable treatment, it’s important that you’ve been assessed, listened to, and that we’ve considered you as a “whole”. For example, understanding how factors like your work, hobbies, physical fitness, and sleep impact on the pain you’re experiencing.
  + At your previous appointment, the clinician you saw will have written to you to outline a provisional plan based on your symptoms and treatment preferences. They would have discussed with you the impact that these symptoms are having on your life and what they expect the radiology result to show. We recommend that you review our last clinic letter alongside your results, as this will help you understand why you have been rebooked with our team or referred to another healthcare service.