**\*\*This is a template letter written by Pulse, please do amend as you see fit. Other letters are available at** [**http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/templateletters**](http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/templateletters)**\*\***

*Hospital address*

*Address*

*Address*

*Practice address*

*Address*

*Address*

Dear

Re .

Your department has asked us to refer a patient to another service within your hospital for a non-urgent condition related to what they are seeing your service for.

There is no requirement to refer back to the GP in this situation. The NHS Standard Contract for hospitals 2016/17 now advises that hospitals can make internal referrals where this is for a related, non-urgent condition, instead of asking the GP to refer the patient. Re-referral for GP approval is only needed for referral of non-urgent, unrelated conditions.

NHS Standard Contract 2016/17 technical guidance states: ‘We have amended the Contract to clarify that, for a nonurgent condition directly related to the complaint or condition which caused the original referral, onward referral to and treatment by another professional within the same provider is permitted, without reference to the patient’s GP – unless referral back to the GP is specifically required as a condition of an Activity Planning Assumption or Prior Approval Scheme in the local contract.’

Given the current immense pressure on GP practices, please refer this patient internally to the service they require rather than asking them to book an appointment with their GP.

We have copied our CCG to inform them of this.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,