Early diagnosis of cancer can save lives

Common concerns

I don’t feel or look ill, so it must be nothing. 
The most ordinary thing could be a sign of cancer. 
It’s best to see your doctor if you notice any warning signs or symptoms described in this leaflet.

I’ve seen the doctor already but my symptoms haven’t gone away. 
If your symptoms haven’t gone away, have changed or have got worse, your doctor will want to know. 
So it is important that you go back and see your doctor again. Be stubborn if your symptom is stubborn.

Screening saves thousands of lives each year

Screening can help detect cancer at an early stage when treatments can be simpler and have a higher chance of being successful. Screening can also be used to prevent cancer from developing in the first place.

In the UK, we have three national screening programmes, for breast, cervical and bowel cancers. It is important to be registered with a GP to take part in screening.

For more information

When cancer is found at an early stage, treatment is often simpler and more likely to be successful. So finding cancer sooner rather than later can make a real difference.

For more about the signs and symptoms of cancer visit www.spotcancerearly.com

For more about cancer visit our patient information website www.cancerhelp.org.uk

If you want to talk in confidence about cancer, call our information nurses on freephone 0808 800 4040.

You can order our full range of leaflets free online at www.cancerresearchuk.org/leaflets
Key signs and symptoms

Find out about some of the possible signs and symptoms of cancer. If you develop any of these symptoms it doesn’t necessarily mean you’ve got cancer. But it’s important to see your doctor, even if you don’t think it’s serious.

There are more than 200 different types of cancer, which can cause many different symptoms. Experts agree that the symptoms mentioned in this leaflet are the most important ones to look out for and act on.

As a general rule, it’s a good idea to know what’s normal for you and to listen to your body. This will make it easier for you to spot any new changes that could be signs of cancer.

If you notice any unusual or persistent changes, it’s best to get checked out by your doctor.