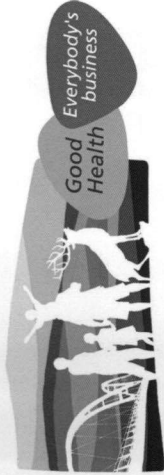
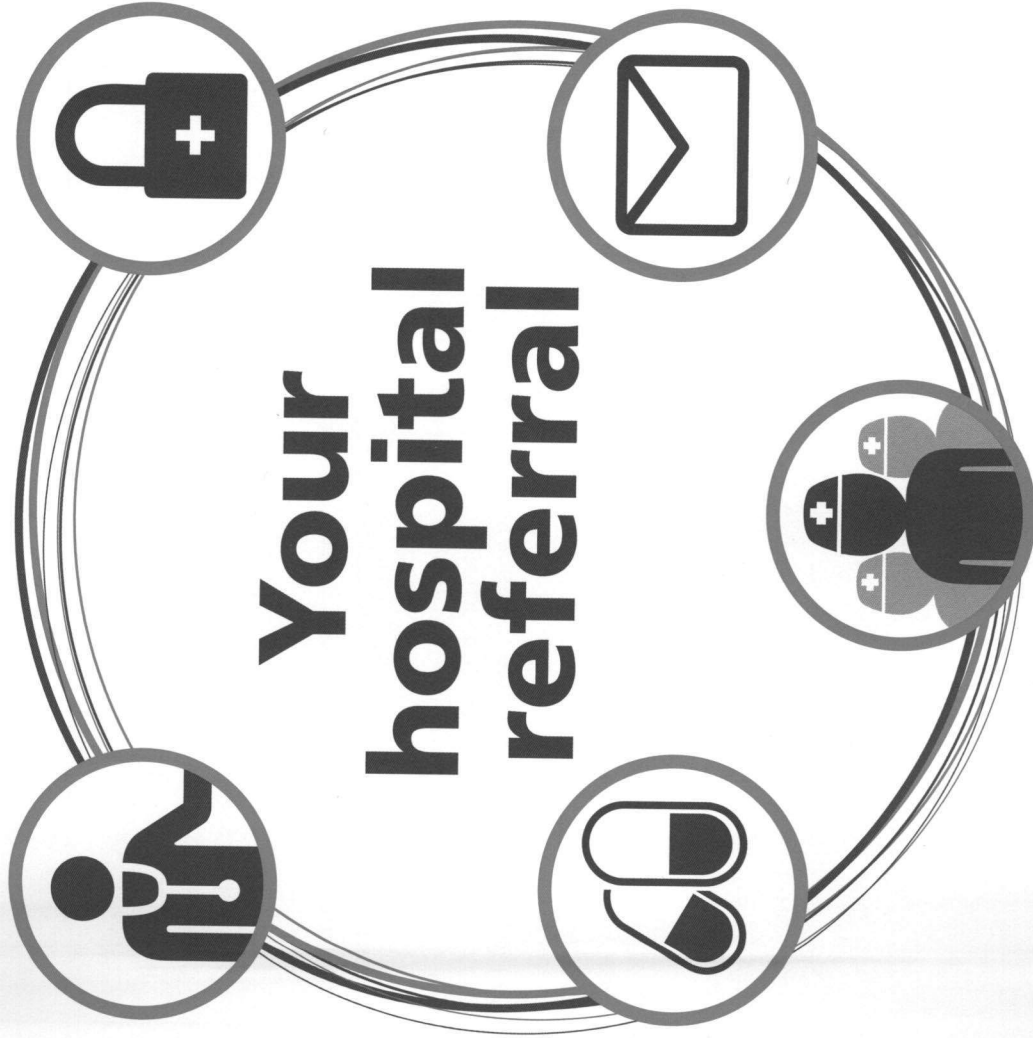




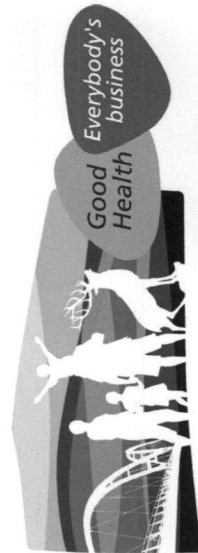
**Hartlepool and
Stockton-on-Tees**
Clinical Commissioning Group



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Stockton-on-Tees**
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What happens if your GP thinks that
you may need to see a specialist...



What is clinical assessment and peer review?

Your Practice has been asked to participate in a 12 month pilot designed to support doctors in delivering high quality, evidence based care whilst maximising efficient use of precious NHS resources.

Your doctor is considering referring you for specialist advice and is proposing that your referral is reviewed confidentially by another doctor who will offer support in deciding the most appropriate treatment plan for you. This includes deciding whether there may be a way to manage your condition effectively outside of hospital.

Following this review you will either receive information regarding your hospital appointment in the post or your surgery will contact you to discuss alternative options for the treatment or care you need.

This process will take no more than 2 working days and this will be the maximum impact on your waiting time for an appointment should you need one.

We hope that you will agree to support this process, but, as this will require your information to be confidentially reviewed by another doctor and administrator from the review team, you should be aware that you have the right to decline to share your information. If you have any concerns regarding this please discuss this further with your doctor.

Some of the benefits of the service include keeping waiting times to a minimum and ensuring all GPs deliver the same high quality of care to all patients.

The service will focus on the following specialties:



■ **Ophthalmology**
(eyes)



■ **ENT**
(ear, nose and throat)



■ **Gynaecology**
(conditions specific to women)



■ **Dermatology**
(skin)



■ **Cardiology**
(heart)



■ **Gastroenterology**
(digestive system)



■ **Rheumatology**
(joints, muscles, ligaments, soft tissues)



■ **Urology**
(urinary system)