

## **2 Week Rule Referral Guidelines - Bone cancer and sarcoma**

[National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence 23](#)

Refer a patient who presents with symptoms suggesting bone cancer or sarcoma to a team specialising in the management of bone cancer and sarcoma, or to a recognised bone cancer centre, depending on local arrangements.

If you have concerns about a patient's symptoms and/or signs, consider a discussion with the local specialist.

### **Bone tumours Soft tissue sarcomas**

Urgently investigate increasing, unexplained or persistent bone pain or tenderness, particularly pain at rest (and especially if not in the joint), or an unexplained limp. In older people metastases, myeloma or lymphoma, as well as sarcoma, should be considered.

### **Refer for an immediate X-ray a patient with a suspected spontaneous fracture.**

If the X-ray:

- indicates possible bone cancer, refer urgently
- is normal but symptoms persist, follow up and/or request repeat X-ray, bone function tests or referral.

### **Refer urgently if:**

a patient presents with a palpable lump that is:

- greater than about 5 cm in diameter
- deep to fascia, fixed or immobile
- increasing in size
- painful
- a recurrence after previous excision.

If a patient has HIV, consider Kaposi's sarcoma and make an urgent referral if suspected.