

## 2 Week Rule Referral Guidelines - Thyroid

All thyroid problems requiring referral by GPs should be referred to the appropriate secondary care clinician not for an ultrasound scan.

***Ultrasound cannot reliably distinguish benign from malignant thyroid nodules.***  
*Ultrasound guided FNA is only performed at the request of the Thyroid, Head and Neck, and Endocrinology teams*

**Symptoms of tracheal compression or stridor due to thyroid swelling.**  
**IMMEDIATE** referral should be made to Head and Neck on-call or to A&E

Fast track referrals - 2 week wait:

Thyroid swelling TOGETHER with any of the following:

- **Solitary nodule, typically hard, increasing in size**
- **Unexplained hoarseness/voice change**
- **Enlarged cervical nodes**
- **Family history endocrine tumour**
- **History of neck irradiation**
- **Aged 65 +**
- **Prepubertal patients**

Routine referrals:

**Solitary thyroid nodule not increasing in size, euthyroid.**

Refer to Thyroid Clinic - *who will determine need for FNA and/or ultrasound*

**Multinodular goitre (MNG) – new presentation, euthyroid.**

Refer to Thyroid Clinic

**Multinodular goitre with recent increase in size, euthyroid.**

As for new presentation of MNG but check (**above**) if 2ww referral required

**Multinodular goitre – known MNG, no recent change in size.**

Routine US follow-up of a longstanding MNG will not alter management

**Hyperthyroidism and thyroid swelling.**

Refer to Endocrinology: *who will determine need for radionuclide imaging or ultrasound.*

**Hypothyroidism and thyroid swelling.**

Refer to Endocrinology: *who will determine need for ultrasound*

### References:

1. British Thyroid Association and the Royal College of Physicians. Guidelines for the management of thyroid cancer in adults (2001).
2. NICE Referral Guidelines for Suspected Cancer 2005, section 1.11.13
3. Making the Best Use of a Department of Clinical Radiology. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition 2003.
4. British Association of Endocrine Surgeons. Guidelines for the surgical management of Endocrine disease: Thyroid Malignancy Guidelines (Nov 2000).
5. Management of nodular thyroid disease. Jones MK. BMJ 2001; 323:293-294
6. British Nuclear Medicine Society Guidelines for thyroid imaging (2001).
7. For hypothyroidism and hyperthyroidism - PRODIGY Guidance available at [www.prodigy.nhs.uk/guidance](http://www.prodigy.nhs.uk/guidance)