

NHS FORTH VALLEY

CT Head Pathway for Suspicious Headache

Approved	29/07/2011
Version	1.0
Date of First Issue	01/09/2011
Date of Current Issue	05/11/2014
Review Date	05/11/2017
Author / Contact	Paul Baughan
Group / Committee – Final Approval	Forth Valley Cancer Board

This document can, on request, be made available in alternative formats

Consultation and Change Record – for ALL documents

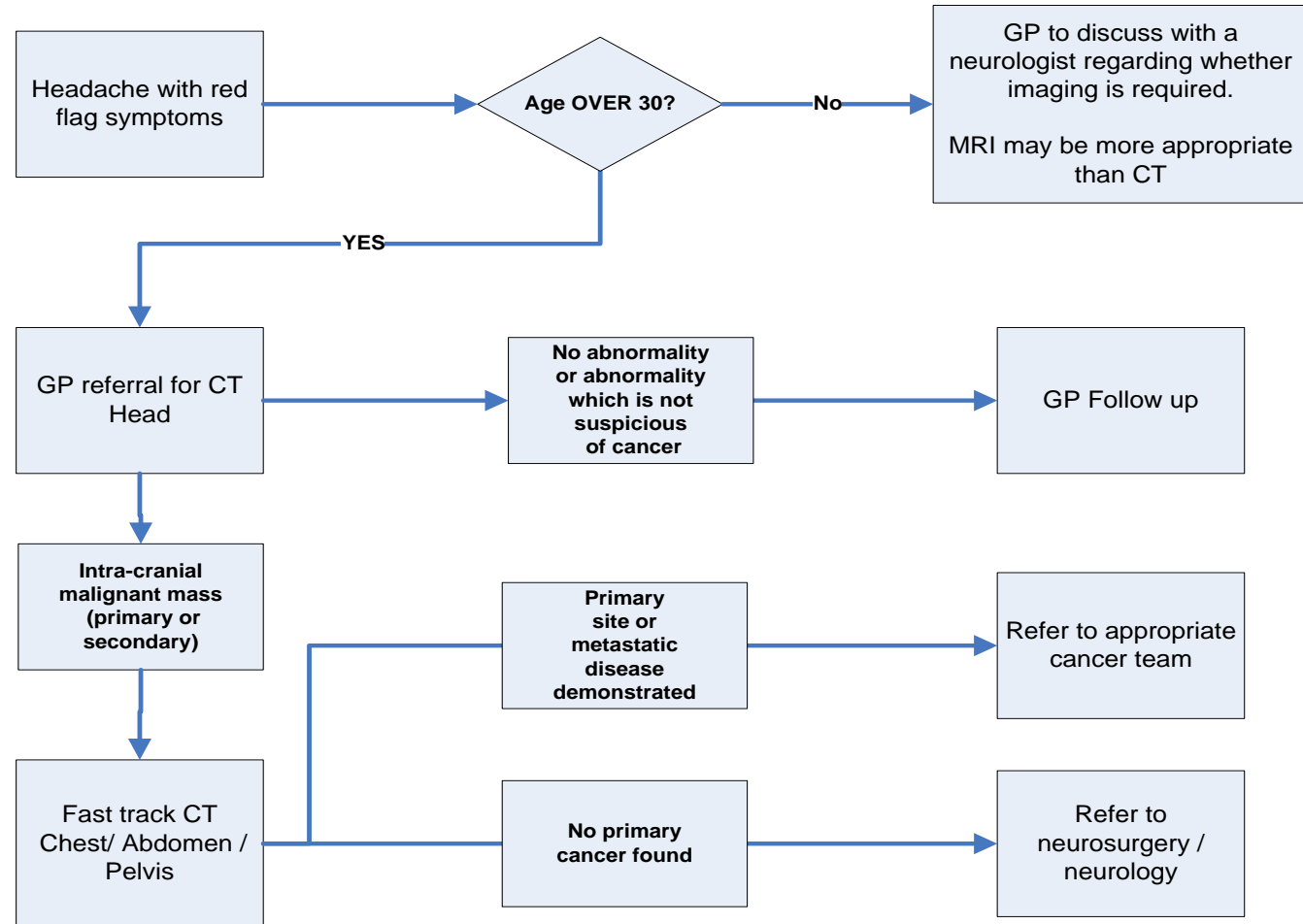
Contributing Authors:	Paul Kelly, Consultant Radiologist Malcolm MacLeod, Consultant Neurologist Paul Baughan, Forth Valley Lead Cancer GP Clinical Leads, Forth Valley Cancer Board		
Consultation Process:	Clinical Leads, Forth Valley		
Distribution:	Quality Improvement Website		
Change Record			
Date	Author	Change	Version

CT Head Pathway for Suspicious Headache

Radiology and Neurology Consultants are always available for discussion of these patients.

- Hyper-acute symptoms
(consider URGENT referral)**
- CVA
 - Thunderclap headache (peaks within seconds up to 5 minutes)
 - Temporal artery tenderness
 - Associated fever
 - Associated neck stiffness

- Headache red flag symptoms:**
- Focal neurology
 - Increasing in frequency and severity
 - Worse on straining or coughing
 - Non-migrainous headache waking from sleep
 - Non-migrainous headaches of recent origin accompanied by features suggesting raised intracranial pressure progressive neurological deficit or new seizure
 - New onset or change in headache if:
 - age > 50 years
 - past history of cancer or HIV
 - recent head injury
 - on warfarin



For further information see SIGN guideline 107, Royal College of Radiology guidelines – <http://mbur.nhs.uk> or NHS Scotland guidelines – <http://www.18weeks.scot.nhs.uk/how-2-achieve-and-maintain-18-weeks/patient-pathways-1/neurological-services>

Publications in Alternative Formats

NHS Forth Valley is happy to consider requests for publications in other language or formats such as large print.

To request another language for a patient, please contact 01786 434784.

For other formats contact 01324 590886,

text 07990 690605,

fax 01324 590867 or

e-mail - fv-uhb.nhsfv-alternativeformats@nhs.net