**Template response for onward referral**

Dear x

Re: <<Patient Identifier Label>>

We write with reference to your request to make an onward referral regarding the above patient to [insert work requested].

You will be aware that [changes to the standard hospital contract](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/2-nhs-contrct-tech-guid-1617.pdf) came into force on 1 April 2016, with new requirements to reduce inappropriate bureaucratic workload shift onto GP practices. This permits hospital clinicians to make an onward referral to another professional for a related condition as follows:

**Contract reference SC8 specifies that unless a CCG requests otherwise, for a**

**non-urgent condition directly related to the complaint or condition which caused the original referral, onward referral to and treatment by another professional within the same provider is permitted, and there is no need to refer back to the GP. Re-referral for GP approval is only required for onward referral of non-urgent, unrelated conditions.**

This was reiterated in the [recent letter from NHS England](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/letter-contract-requirements.pdf) to all hospital providers

**We would be grateful if you would now make the onward referral accordingly for the above patient as you feel clinically necessary, without further delay.**

You will be aware that general practice is under unprecedented workload pressures.  
In order to not incur unnecessary additional bureaucracy on hard pressed GP surgeries, please organise to review your policy accordingly and ensure this is communicated to your team.

This arrangement will also have the added benefit of reducing unnecessary referral delay and waiting times for patients.

We have notified [insert] CCG, as the commissioner, of this breach in view of their responsibility to ensure delivery of the standard hospital contract

Yours faithfully,