ENT – Hoarseness
Patient Pathway (Adults)

Patient Presentation
Hoarseness for longer than 1 to 2 weeks

GP or practice nurse

Any of the following:
• History of smoking
• Throat pain and/or otalgia
• Dysphagia
• Stridor
• Haemoptysis
• Neck examination abnormal e.g. enlarged nodes

No

Yes, and if after 3 weeks no improvement is seen

Head & Neck Clinic
Urgent referral with Suspicion of cancer to ENT

GP or practice nurse

History of:
• Hoarseness with vocal use
• Steroid Inhaler use
• Recent Upper Respiratory Tract Infection
• Intermittent hoarseness

Consider thyroid status

No

Yes

GP or practice nurse
Treatment:
• Voice care – provide patient with information
• Optimise steroid dose and inhaler Technique
• Hydration – encourage good hydration

Yes

GP or practice nurse
Follow-up 6-8 weeks or sooner if any worsening symptoms
Refer if aphonia present for 3 weeks

Resolved
Discharge

If not resolved

Voice Clinic
Refer to ENT

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