

TRAQS – Ideal Referral Letter Contents

- ❧ Referring Doctors Name – who dictated the letter **not** just the senior partner, locum, etc
- ❧ Reason for the referral – ie “assess for hip replacement”
- ❧ Patient’s history of the problem and its change in symptomatology over time
- ❧ Clinical examination findings both at the time of referral and any indication of how they have changed to indicate progression or decline
- ❧ Clinical metrics, for example, BP/BMI, alcohol consumption (# units per week) and smoking status (including any stopping smoking plans, if relevant)
- ❧ Investigations done and any relevant reports attached
- ❧ Current and tried relevant medications and/or other treatments (e.g. physiotherapy)
- ❧ Differential diagnosis – what you have already considered and excluded – and what is in the referring GPs mind now
- ❧ Include any previous relevant/connected referrals to the presenting problem
- ❧ What outcome the referring GP is hoping to get from the referral, for example, investigation, diagnosis and/or management advice
- ❧ Any additional information you consider may be helpful, including patient’s issues, social circumstances, special needs, clinical warnings (including allergies, blood borne viruses), etc

Based on SIGN guidance “[Report on a Recommended Referral Document](#)”