

## Provision of endoscopy services and revised guidance for lower GI (colorectal) suspected cancer referrals

Following the recent changes to the BSG guidelines and the use of FIT for patients with signs and symptoms of colorectal cancer, there have been revisions made to the 2ww referral form and pathway options (see attached).

Patients aged 60 years or older with a Change in Bowel Habit as their sole symptom, and a FIT less than 10 µg Hb/g have approximately a 1% chance of having cancer.

### Referral criteria for lower GI suspected cancer referrals

Extending the use of FIT has meant that some patients can be safely managed without any further diagnostics or will be able to have alternative investigations via endoscopy.

Please request a FIT and FBC on all patients except those with a rectal/anal mass or anal ulceration, including those with rectal bleeding.

Some patients may not consent or fail to return a FIT test. However, if you still feel there are concerning symptoms indicative of cancer please refer and explain reason on referral form.

### Safety Netting

Some patients with a fHb <10µg Hb/g may be managed in primary care and, provided appropriate safety-netting is in place.

It is recommended that safety-netting protocols should incorporate advice and strategies for the diagnosis of colorectal cancer and extracolonic cancer, as well as other serious gastro-intestinal conditions.

Source <https://gut.bmj.com/content/71/10/1939>

1:10 people with colorectal cancer will have fHb <10µg Hb/g. Therefore, patients with an fHb <10µg Hb/g but with persistent and unexplained symptoms for whom the GP has ongoing clinical concern should be referred to secondary care for evaluation.

This can include the option to refer on an urgent or routine pathway as in the below diagram or referral to the Non-Specific Symptoms (NSS) pathway using the following link:

[https://www.heronkm.nhs.uk/heron\\_km/organisationdetails.aspx?id=23297](https://www.heronkm.nhs.uk/heron_km/organisationdetails.aspx?id=23297)

### Consultant Advice and Support

If you have individual patients that you wish to have clinical advice on, please either make use of Advice and Guidance or Consultants will provide telephone advice to GPs through the hospital switchboards

