

CLINICAL REFERRAL GUIDELINES FOR ADULT PERSONAL DOCTORS

LOWER GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT CANCER

Rectal Cancer

Urgent referral (within 2 weeks) to a gastroenterologist or general surgeon in cases of

- Unexplained rectal mass
- Unexplained rectal ulceration

Colorectal Cancer

Urgent referral (within 2 weeks) to a gastroenterologist or general surgeon in cases of patients

- Aged > 40 years with unexplained weight loss and abdominal pain
- Aged > 50 years with unexplained intestinal bleeding
- Aged > 60 years with one of the following
 - Iron deficiency anaemia
 - Or changes in bowel habits
 - Positive faecal occult blood test (positive Hemoccult test)
- Any age with a mass in the rectum or abdomen
- Aged < 50 years with rectal bleeding in combination with one of the following symptoms
 - Abdominal pain
 - changes in bowel habits
 - Weight loss
 - Iron deficiency anaemia

NOTE 1: In adults without blood in the stools but with symptoms or signs that cause clinical concern, refer for a faecal blood test if it is considered that they may benefit from the test.

NOTE 2:

1. For patients diagnosed with cancer undergoing oncological treatment or follow-up, communication with the treating oncologist is recommended.
2. Patients undergoing oncological treatment or follow-up (at least one visit to the oncologist within 8 months) have the right to direct access to the treating oncologist.

Bibliography:

Rapid Referral Guidelines for Suspected Cancer. A NICE-endorsed summary of the guidelines for suspected cancer (NG12). MacMillan Cancer Support. <https://www.macmillan.org.uk/healthcare-professionals/cancer-pathways/prevention-and-diagnosis/rapid-referral-guidelines>