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FIT in Primary Care

NICE have released updated guidance on the use of FIT on the colorectal pathway in primary care. This is in line with the 2022 BSG guidance of referring a patient with suspected colorectal cancer symptoms into secondary care with a FIT result of at least 10 micrograms of haemoglobin per gram of faeces. Thank you for adopting this change to the referral process over the past 10 months.

[Overview | Quantitative faecal immunochemical testing to guide colorectal cancer pathway referral in primary care | Guidance | NICE](#)

IIF indicator change – CAN-01 to CAN-02

Please note the IIF indicator for FIT has changed from **CAN-01** to **CAN-02**. The definition of CAN-02 is:

“Percentage of lower gastrointestinal two week wait (fast track) cancer referrals accompanied by a faecal immunochemical test result, with the result recorded in the twenty-one days leading up to the referral.”

CAN-02 does not include FIT results sent 14 days after referral onto the lower GI pathway. Please expect to see a dip in your PCN's performance based on this change. Please **do not delay a referral** if there is no positive FIT result and you think a referral is necessary.

Change to National Cancer Waiting Time Standards

There are currently 10 different standards in place to measure waiting times for cancer diagnostics and treatment. Following a consultation last year, the NHS is now modernising and simplifying these standards to focus on three, focused on outcomes, not processes. From 1 October, the three standards will be:

- Faster Diagnosis Standard: a diagnosis or ruling out of cancer within 28 days of referral (set at 75%)
- 31-day treatment standard: commence treatment within 31 days of a decision to treat for all cancer patients (set at 96%)
- 62-day treatment standard: commence treatment within 62 days of being referred or consultant upgrade (set at 85%)

The main changes being announced are:

- Removal of the Two Week Wait standard requiring a first appointment within two weeks
- Combining together the first and subsequent treatment 31-day standards to create one headline performance standard.
- Combining together the Urgent Suspected Cancer GP referral, Urgent Screening and Consultant Upgrade 62-day standards to create one headline performance standard for all patients.

There is **no change to the way GPs refer patients onto Urgent Suspected Cancer pathways** – the only change is that the NHS will measure how well it is dealing with those referrals by looking at speed of actual diagnosis, not whether the patient has a first appointment within a fortnight. It is likely that most patients will still have their first appointment or investigation **within 7-14 days of referral** in order to meet the 28 day faster diagnosis standard. The Cancer Alliance are reviewing and updating patient information but suggest that practices still advise patients that they will be contacted soon after referral and **continue to use the current patient information letters, leaflets and referral forms**

Until the language in the Cancer Waiting Times dataset is updated, expected to be in 2024/25, GPs and providers should still use the “Priority type – Two Week Wait” data item to record performance against this pathway. The Cancer Alliance will ensure all documentation and patient messaging in use across GM reflects this new guidance and ensure there are clear messages for patients regarding the positive nature of these changes, to mitigate any potential negative interpretation.

GM Cancer Academy Dermatology Training

GM Cancer Academy and the GM Cancer Early Diagnosis & Primary Care team are hosting a Skin Lesion recognition event on the **2nd of October**. This will include interactive case based learning and top tips from expert GP's and Consultant Dermatologists. There will be the opportunity to attend further workshops based on the principles of the DECIDE Education Programme at a later date.

Sign up here: [Dermatology Education Event: Skin Lesion Recognition - Greater Manchester Cancer Academy \(gmcancceracademy.org.uk\)](https://gmcancceracademy.org.uk)

PCN Funding and Action plan

As a reminder, the deadline for submitting the PCN Action plan to the Cancer Alliance is the **30th of September**. Please email gmcancer.earlydiagnosis-primarycare@nhs.net with the completed plan (template attached to this email).

The information gathered will help shape the ongoing support that will be provided to PCNs by GM Cancer and partners in relation to fulfilling the requirement of the DES 2023/24 and will be used to guide future support planning.

Our Quality Improvement training will be delivered on the **21st of September**, 9-12:30 in the Studio, 51 Lever Street, M1 1FN. This event is one of the training events included in the additional payment. [Sign up here.](#)

Dermoscopy Resources



Are you confident using the dermatoscope? Can you differentiate seborrhoeic keratoses and melanocytic lesions? There are great resources produced by GatewayC and the GM Cancer Alliance to help you, including short videos on dermoscopy, tips to identify seborrhoeic keratoses and spotting the ugly duckling.

[GatewayC Live: Greater Manchester – Dermoscopy - YouTube](#)

[GatewayC Live: Greater Manchester – 12 Tips to Identify Seborrhoeic Keratosis - YouTube](#)

[Be aware of the ugly duckling – Dermoscopy - YouTube](#)

Urology Referrals – Eastenders Storyline

Cancer Alliances have been informed to expect a sharp increase in urology (specifically prostate) referrals due to public awareness raised by an Eastenders storyline.

As a reminder, here are some GP education resources that can help you make a referral for prostate cancer in Greater Manchester:

[GatewayC-GM-Infographic-Prostate-Cancer-April-23.pdf](#)

[GatewayC Bitesize: Greater Manchester – Prostate Cancer - YouTube](#)

[Patient Leaflet for a Prostate Cancer Referral](#)

Genomics Education Event

This event will provide an understanding of genomics and the work being done to embed testing into oncology pathways in Greater Manchester. The day will feature educational workshops and a discussion panel with patient representatives and healthcare professionals.

The event is suitable for Healthcare Professionals looking to better understand how genomic testing fits into their practice and how to communicate genomic testing with patients. Sign up here: [Genomics Education Event - Greater Manchester Cancer Academy \(gmcanceracademy.org.uk\)](#)

Cancer Academy LGBT Module



This module is suitable for anyone within the health and social care workforce. It focuses on numerous themes including correct terminology, inclusivity and challenging discrimination to encourage inclusive interactions.

[Click here for registration details and more information](#)

GatewayC Education Events

The Cancer Forum that took place on the 18th of July is available to watch on demand here: [The Cancer Forum, July 2023 - YouTube](#)

Non-Specific Symptoms Infographic

Download the Non-Specific Symptoms infographic covering the points raised in the webinar on the 12th of July: [GatewayC-GM-Infographic-NSS-Aug-23.pdf](#)

Coming soon....

- ✓ PCN Cancer Leads Session – 26th September
- ✓ QI Training – 21st September at The Studio Manchester, 51 Lever Street, M1 1FN. [Sign up here.](#)
- ✓ Lunchtime Webinar – Urology Excluding Prostate – <https://bit.ly/3OVNGR7>
- ✓ Cancer Academy free education days - [Greater Manchester Cancer Academy \(gmcanceracademy.org.uk\)](https://gmcanceracademy.org.uk):
- ✓ Dermatology Training event for Primary Care – Monday 2nd October 2023. [Sign up here.](#)

Any feedback or queries please direct to:

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