

**Meeting of the SWAG Network Colorectal Cancer Clinical Advisory Group
Friday 6th January 2023, 18:00-19:00 via MS Teams**

Consensus statement on which NG12 symptoms do not warrant a positive FIT test prior to urgent (2WW) referral to Secondary Care.

Iron Deficiency Anaemia (IDA)

Definition as per [NICE](#) and BSG Guidelines:

Men Hb less than 130 g/L

Women Hb less than 120 g/L

Serum Ferritin less than 30 micrograms/L

Patients with symptoms of suspected colorectal cancer and IDA are to be referred directly to the Suspected Colorectal Cancer 2WW pathway without the need for a FIT test; a FIT negative test can be misleading in this patient cohort.

Rationale: Data from the Northeast Cancer Alliance showed a 5% incidence of cancer in patients with IDA and a negative FIT.

Management of IDA will be based on local protocols for clinical assessment. However, it is recommended that patients with symptoms of suspected colorectal cancer and IDA should have a colonoscopy prior to a gastroscopy.

Once examinations have excluded cancer, the GP will be advised not to re-refer for IDA for 18 months unless another significant symptom of concern arises, as per NG12 Guidance.

Abdominal Mass

Patients with an abdominal mass are to be referred directly for a CT scan by the GP where Direct Access is available or by the Secondary Care team via the Suspected Colorectal Cancer 2WW pathway without the need for a FIT test, to facilitate early diagnosis.

Rectal or Anal Mass or unexplained anal ulceration

Patients should be referred directly to the Suspected Colorectal Cancer 2WW pathway without the need for a FIT test.

Ongoing/Future Work:

To further refine the symptom set, predictability of FIT and age range, with further research.

To provide education for gastroenterologists and other colleagues and make stocks of FIT tests readily available to ensure that they are used in Secondary Care to avoid colonoscopy whenever possible.

Agreed By: UHBW-Bristol; UHBW-Weston; NBT; GRH; YDH; SWAG Cancer Alliance.

Attendees: Ann Lyons (NBT); Amelia Randle (SWAG Cancer Alliance); David Messenger (UHBW – Bristol Site); Julie Burton (YDH); Reuben West, (UHBW – Weston Site).