

We hope that this pack will provide all the information you need to refer a patient to our service and that it will be helpful in guiding your decision-making about a patient who you think may require a referral to the RCDS.

About Us

The Rapid Cancer Diagnostic Service (RCDS) is a pathway to allow patients with non-specific cancer symptoms, including 'GP suspicion of cancer' (8% risk) to be referred on to the RCDS pathway and have access to urgent investigation, including CT/MRI scanning, following clinical assessment. The referral to RCDS is supported by the RCDS referral blood bundle which are bloods required prior to acceptance of a referral by a GP or ANP. Patients are supported by a Patient Navigator after referral to improve the patient experience and to coordinate their care.

All the following information is available on the Blink website under the Fife Referral Organisational Guidelines (FROG) – “Cancer referrals: Urgent Suspicion of Cancer (USoC)” – “Rapid Cancer Diagnostic Service”. <https://app.joinblink.com/#/hub/b51d2e5c-e5c0-4a49-9d2e-5ce5c04a49cf>

Referral Criteria

- There is no other urgent site-specific referral pathway suitable for this clinical scenario
- GP and or ANP clinical suspicion of a serious disease that could be due to cancer / GP “gut feeling”
- ≥18 years of age (cancer is very rare under the age of 40 years)
- Unexplained laboratory test findings (e.g. anaemia, thrombocytopenia, hypercalcaemia)
- Unexplained weight loss of >5% (>10% if an isolated symptom)
- Severe unexplained fatigue
- Persistent nausea or appetite loss
- New atypical pain (e.g. diffuse abdominal pain or bone pain).
- The patient is well enough to go through the process
- The patient understands the process and is able to attend the RCDS at short notice.
- Patient should be provided with the enclosed leaflet prior to referral being made to service or you can give them the link to the patient facing RCDS website by searching “Fife RCDS patient pathway” or following this link.

<https://www.nhsfife.org/services/all-services/cancer-services/rapid-cancer-diagnostic-service/the-rcds-pathway-for-patients/>

RCDS Blood Bundle

Mandatory for referral!

- FBC
- U&E
- LFTs
- Calcium
- Ferritin
- Transferrin saturation
- Coeliac (TTG) antibodies
- TFT
- Glucose and HbA1c
- PSA (men) OR Ca125 (women) - *added automatically by the Lab when full RCDS profile is selected*

ORDER ENTRY | ① | ② | Status ●

This is easily ordered by ticking the RCDS Profile in Cyberlabs

1 Enter order information

2 Choose requestables

Profiles GP

GROUP PANELS

<input type="checkbox"/> Electrolytes	<input type="checkbox"/> Cholesterol	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard Hepatitis screen	<input type="checkbox"/> Thrombocytosis	<input type="checkbox"/> SACT Immuno 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Liver function profile	<input type="checkbox"/> Hypertension profile	<input type="checkbox"/> Biochemistry Liver Screen	<input type="checkbox"/> Thrombocytopenia	<input type="checkbox"/> SACT Immuno 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Bone profile	<input type="checkbox"/> QID profile	<input type="checkbox"/> Serology Liver Screen	<input type="checkbox"/> Lymphopenia	<input type="checkbox"/> SACT Haem 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Thyroid function	<input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes 6 monthly review	<input type="checkbox"/> TIA / Stroke Profile	<input type="checkbox"/> Polycythaemia	<input type="checkbox"/> SACT Haem 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Glucose	<input type="checkbox"/> New Arthritis profile	<input type="checkbox"/> Ferritin	<input type="checkbox"/> Isolated Macrocytosis	<input type="checkbox"/> SACT Haem 3
<input type="checkbox"/> Urine culture	<input type="checkbox"/> Rheumatology Annual review	<input type="checkbox"/> Helicobacter Pylori antigen	<input type="checkbox"/> Colorectal referral bundle (over 40 years old)	<input type="checkbox"/> SACT Haem 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Fasting Lipid profile	<input type="checkbox"/> DMand Review	<input type="checkbox"/> Erectile Dysfunction profile	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RCDS Profile	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing Disorder Bloods
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Blood Count	<input type="checkbox"/> Intelligent LFT	<input type="checkbox"/> Diabetic Annual visit (Bloods)	<input type="checkbox"/> Gastrointestinal referral bundle, 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Known coeliac annual review bloods
<input type="checkbox"/> D-Dimer	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Chemotherapy profile	<input type="checkbox"/> Diabetic Annual visit (Urine)	<input type="checkbox"/> IBD (Under 40 years old)	
<input type="checkbox"/> INR	<input type="checkbox"/> Vascular clinic profile	<input type="checkbox"/> HbA1c	<input type="checkbox"/> Gastrointestinal referral bundle, 2	
<input type="checkbox"/> Urinary Albumin:Creatinine Ratio	<input type="checkbox"/> Dementia profile	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutropenia	<input type="checkbox"/> IBD with diarrhoea (Under 40 years old)	

DYNAMIC PANELS

<input type="checkbox"/> Glucose Tolerance Test	<input type="checkbox"/> Synacthen Stimulation Test
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Continue

Who not to refer

- Those patients already on a designated USC pathway
- Those patients who are suitable for another USC pathway
- Referral via all secondary care clinicians including urgent care and GP outside pilot area.
- Patient < 18 years of age.
- Previous cancer diagnosis and symptoms likely due to recurrence (if a known cancer is suspected – either primary or secondary/recurrence the patient should be referred directly to the site-specific USC)
- Seen in RCDS within last 3 months with no new symptoms
- Patient too unwell to attend
- Patient requires acute admission to hospital
- Patient unable/unwilling to attend at short notice/for a whole day
- A serious NON-CANCER diagnosis is highly likely (chronic / functional abdominal pain)

Note sure if appropriate to refer?

If you are unsure whether referral to RCDS is appropriate, please call the team on 01592 643355 ext 27610 for advice.

How to refer

- This pathway is accessed via SCI Gateway electronic referral system
- Under the Speciality you will choose RCDS → Urgent Suspicion Cancer → Cancer Site Unknown
- RCDS Bundle available in Cyberlabs for the necessary blood bundle required at time of referral and must be completed

Important information to include in your referral

Please include detailed information relating to the patient and their symptoms and examination. Also include information about any weight loss (weight lost if known, or down dress sizes / belt loops) and the duration of this. Include any history of cancer for the patient/family. Mention whether the GP has made the patient aware they must be available at short notice and please note any sensory/cognitive impairment and whether they are being supported by a relative / spouse who we should be speaking to instead of the patient.

What patients should expect

Patients will receive a telephone call to patients within 24-72 hours by our Patient Navigator / Advanced Clinical Nurse Specialist. A triage process (including a review of RCDS bundle and frailty assessment and telephone clinical assessment of patient) will then direct patients straight to investigation if referral is accepted. Results will be fed back promptly to patients as soon as possible. If further tests are required, the RCDS team will organise these and inform the patient directly. The RCDS team will then onward refer patients to appropriate cancer /specialty teams or discharge patients back to the care of their GP.

Contact details

The RCDS Team: 01592 643355 extension 27610 | Email: Fife.rcds@nhs.scot

RCDS Team Members

Clinical Lead: Neil Cruickshank (Consultant Colorectal Surgeon & Endoscopy Clinical Lead)
Lead Nurse: Murdina MacDonald (Lead Cancer Nurse)
Lead Advanced Clinical Nurse Specialist: Katie Wilkin
ACNS: Ashley McMahon | CNS: Georgia Wallace & Kyle Shaw
Patient Navigators: Lorna Muir & Trish Cochrane
GP Lead: Mairi Bowlerwell
Project Manager: Carron Waterson

RCDS Website

<https://www.nhsfife.org/services/all-services/cancer-services/rapid-cancer-diagnostic-service/>