

C&M Primary Care Networks Bulletin

April 2021

It's an extremely busy time for everyone in primary care and as a Cancer Alliance we are keen to support colleagues.

We are currently updating our PCN webpage to provide supportive information and resources to help you and your PCN achieve the contractual requirements of both the new DES and QOF QI for 21/22. In addition, we have plans for:

- A schedule of webinars throughout the year introducing the wider work of the Cancer Alliance relevant to the DES, including emerging Rapid Diagnostics Services.
- A PCN data dashboard with key indicators aligned to the DES
- A network wide project specific to supporting improvements in the quality of 2ww referrals

We will share more detail as plans are further developed; any feedback on how else we can best support is welcome. In the interim we have two webinars planned for May (details below) and look forward to meeting many of you then.

Release of the revised 21/22 'DES' and QOF QI requirements

The 2021/22 Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service (DES) has now been published with associated guidance for Primary Care Networks and a contractual start date of **1st April 2021**. The Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF) guidance for 2021/22 is also published.

We will be hosting webinars in May to outline the requirements of the revised 21/22 DES and QOF QI, share relevant initiatives/work to help PCN colleagues with delivery and sign-post to local support. To register interest and receive an MS Teams link please email ccf-tr.admin.cmca@nhs.net stating your preferred date:

Wednesday 19th May 1-2pm

Friday 21st May 1-2pm

Please note the sessions will cover the same content so you only need to register for one date

In the interim, much of the previous 20/21 DES priorities remain; as such if we can remind colleagues there are various resources available on the CMCA website to support with delivery of the 'DES' and QOF QI available here. We will continue to update and build on this area to reflect the 21/22 requirements.

Bowel Cancer Awareness Month

In recognition of Bowel Cancer Awareness Month we have included below some relevant information and links which we hope will be useful for your own practice:

- Fran McNicol (Colorectal Cancer Consultant at Liverpool University Hospitals) has produced a 5 minute video available here aimed at helping GP's to make good quality referrals for suspected Lower GI cancer and introducing the FIT test.
- Awareness materials are available to download free here, including 'know the symptoms' posters and a 'symptoms diary' for patients.
- GI symptoms can be vague and overlap several 2ww referral pathway criterion: 'Cancer Maps' is a free, interactive reference tool based on NG12 cancer guidelines to aid in GP decision making re 2ww referral pathways – available here, GP's can map patient symptoms onto possible suspected cancer pathways. **If you have a patient who causes you concern but does not meet the referral criteria for a 2ww please contact the relevant secondary care team who will be happy to advise.**

FIT testing: Identifying patients at high risk of colorectal cancer

Primary Care ordering of FIT testing is currently being rolled out across Cheshire & Merseyside for eligible patients in line with guidance from NICE (DG30) and NHS England (FIT for 2WW referrals). FIT is a stool test that is designed to identify possible signs of bowel disease by detecting faecal occult blood (hidden blood). The test has a high negative predictive value (at least 97%^[i]^[ii]^[iii]^[iv]) and can be used to prioritise patients for investigation based on their clinical risk of colorectal cancer. In combination with clinical review, FIT provides a safe, minimally invasive, rapid and accurate way to determine a patient's risk of having a LGI cancer. It will improve patient experience through reducing unnecessary endoscopies, enable effective clinical prioritisation and exclude cancer earlier.

Evidence suggests that 79% of patients presenting with bowel symptoms in Primary Care would be eligible for this test. In Cheshire & Merseyside ordering of the test in Primary Care will support GP triage of low risk patients and enable secondary care to effectively triage and prioritise this group as well as those with high risk symptoms.

Primary Care FIT ordering is currently live in Liverpool, South Sefton, Cheshire, St Helens, Halton, Knowsley and Warrington with work underway in Wirral. Low risk FIT testing is available in Southport & Formby.

Please contact your CCG GP Cancer Lead for further information on access in your area and help support FIT by ensuring it is requested for eligible patients.

"...The FIT test will help reduce unnecessary endoscopies, improve the patient experience, detect early cancer and also increase our endoscopy capacity for those who do need to undergo such a crucial diagnostic test."

Dr Ash Bassi, Consultant Gastroenterologist & Clinical Lead for Endoscopy, Cheshire and Merseyside

"I am positive that the FIT test will revolutionise the way GPs refer patients who present with symptoms of bowel cancer. The test is quick and easy to do at home and can quickly rule out the possibility of cancer and enable us to diagnose and treat whatever the problem is."

Dr Hilary Flett, GP lead for planned care and Governing Body member at NHS St Helens CCG

For any queries please contact:

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FIT references:

^[i] Mole, G.; Withington, J. and Logan, R. (2019) *Clinical Medicine, Conference Report*, 19(3):196-9; ^[ii] Souza, N.D.; Delisle, T.G.; Benton, S.; Chen, M.; Abulafi, M.; NICE FIT Study Investigators (2020) FIT can rule out colorectal cancer in patients with high risk symptoms? Diagnostic Accuracy Results of the Faecal Immunochemical Test in 9822 patients in the NICE FIT study. *Colorectal Disease*; BJS Prize Session; <https://doi.org/10.1111/codi.15167>; ^[iii] D'Souza, N.; Delisle, T.G.; Chen, M.; Benton, S and Abulafi, M. (2021) *Faecal immunochemical test is superior to symptoms in predicting pathology in patients with suspected colorectal cancer symptoms referred on a 2WW pathway: a diagnostic accuracy study*. *Gut* Published Online First: 21 October 2020. doi: 10.1136/gutjnl-2020-321956 ; ^[iv] Westwood, M.; Lang, S.; Armstrong, N.; van Turenhout, S.; Cubiella, J.; Stirr, L.; Corro Ramos, I.; Luyendijk, M.; Zaim, R.; Kleijnen, J. and Fraser, C. (2017) Faecal immunochemical tests (FIT) can help to rule out colorectal cancer in patients presenting in primary care with lower abdominal symptoms: a systematic review conducted to inform new NICE DG30 diagnostic guidance. *BMC Medicine*, 15:189, DOI 10.1186/s12916-017-0944-z