

Early Diagnosis of Cancer Programme

The Early Diagnosis of Cancer Programme has different work streams, delivering specific elements:

Group 1 – Faster Diagnostic Standard (FDS) & Timed pathways

The Faster Diagnostic Standard (FDS) ensures patients find out within 28 days whether or not they have cancer. This encourages referral after symptoms are first spotted, get treatment started as soon as possible for those who are diagnosed with cancer and give early reassurance when cancer isn't present. National timed pathways enable patients to have their diagnosis communicated to them in the shortest time possible by following a consistent timed pathway. Work covered in this group aims to implement the 28 FDS for patients referred to Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust.

Group 2 –New diagnostic model

Aims to implement new diagnostic models i.e. 'one-stop' clinics where clinically appropriate.

Group 3 – Serious Non Specific Symptoms Pathway

To create a referral pathway with Serious Non Specific Symptoms that does not indicate a likely primary tumour site, or meet the criteria for a site specific urgent referral pathway for cancer. This pathway will help GPs refer patients into a dedicated service and reduce any delays to investigation or treatment.

Group 4 – FIT (Faecal Immunochemical Testing) in primary care

GPs will be able to give patients a simple FIT (Faecal Immunochemical Testing) to carry out at home to rule out bowel cancer. This will also help reduce patients being referred for invasive procedures like colonoscopies. To find out more, visit <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/DG30>.

Group 5 – Workforce Advanced Practitioner in Cellular Pathology

Training and introduction of Advanced Practitioner roles in Cellular Pathology will create more capacity for reporting tests in a timely manner and reduce delays in patient pathways.

Group 6 –Workforce in Endoscopy (pre-assessment clinics)

The Endoscopy Department at Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust have introduced a pre-assessment service for patients being referred from HDFT clinics and GP referrals. Patients receive a face-to-face or phone assessment prior to their endoscopy procedure. Patient safety & comfort is enhanced while allaying anxiety & allowing patients to ask questions.