NIoN Lower GI Suspected Cancer Pathway

### Symptoms of suspected Lower Gastronintestinal Cancer

- Abdominal and Rectal examination

### Request qFIT and include result with referral

Key test in prioritising patients for colonoscopy

- For rectal/anal/abdominal /mass or proven iron deficiency anaemia qFIT result can follow referral.

### Recommended Investigations

- Full Blood Count, U&E, Iron Profile (including Ferritin)
- Coeliac Profile (if Iron Deficiency anaemia, weight loss or diarrhoea)

### Document fitness for investigation

Patient has been advised that further investigation may be required and appears agreeable to straight to test

### High Risk Lower GI Symptoms – Based on NICE NG12/Scottish Guidance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptom</th>
<th>Action</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rectal, Anal or Abdominal Mass</td>
<td>Arrange qFIT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proven Iron Deficiency Anaemia (IDA)</td>
<td>Arrange qFIT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persistent Change in bowel habit towards looser motions for &gt;4 weeks</td>
<td>ATTACH qFIT result</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rectal Bleeding</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Abdominal pain with weight loss (Upper GI referral might be more appropriate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Normocytic anaemia +LOWER GI symptoms</td>
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</table>

**Please check qFIT result before referral for any of these symptoms**

- If qFIT positive ≥7 µHb/g
- If qFIT negative <7 µHb/g

**SAFETY NETTING** - If persistent or progressive symptoms exist on primary care review consider RED FLAG referral. Secondary care may downgrade to URGENT upon triage.

### Notes

- If patient unable to provide qFIT where requested, please make this clear in referral
- If patient does not return qFIT where requested, please reassess and safety netting
- For further guidance please refer to associated supporting documentation on NIoN website: [qFIT for lower GI symptoms](https://hscni.net)

Version 22.6.21 – Pathway subject to review at 18 months following evaluation