

Introducing your new NHS Forth Valley

RCDS

Rapid Cancer Diagnostic Service

A streamlined pathway designed for Primary Care, for patients with suspected cancer not fitting site-specific suspected cancer pathway criteria such as lung, colorectal, etc.

- Single point of contact for RCDS patients
- All results discussed with/sent to patients
- Initial further referrals/tests organised by the RCDS team
- Timely correspondence, also copied to patients
- Pre-referral blood bundle available on Ordercomms
- Prioritised imaging, usually CT CAP, following referral

The RCDS aims to give earlier reassurance if no cancer, or earlier detection and treatment if cancer is found

RCDS referral criteria

- Clinician 'gut feeling' of cancer
- **Unexplained weight loss ($\geq 5\%$, less if strong suspicion)**
- **≥ 4 weeks of ≥ 1 NEW unexplained non-specific symptoms (NSS) concerning for cancer, sooner if high suspicion:**
 - Loss of appetite
 - Persistent nausea
 - Severe fatigue
 - Pain, which may be progressive, including bone pain, or diffuse abdominal pain
- **Unexplained thrombocytosis (UT), platelets >450 , with non-specific symptom(s) above:**
 - Assess for cancer signs/symptoms, especially of the 'LEGO-C' cancers (Lung, Endometrial, Gastric, Oesophageal, Colorectal)
 - If specific cancer site suspected, refer to site-specific pathway rather than RCDS
 - If isolated UT with unclear site, consider Chest X-Ray
 - If UT with ≥ 1 of the NSS above, RCDS referral may be appropriate instead

Please see MARG > Cancer > RCDS for full guidance, including infographic summary