

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – GASTRO INTESTINAL PATHWAYS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to gastro intestinal pathways in NHS Lothian.

Question:

1a. Is quantitative faecal immunochemical test available in primary care in your area and for what indications?

Answer:

This test is not directly available to primary care, but if a GP is concerned about colorectal cancer the patient can be referred to the Colorectal team for testing. Information about indications for referral can be found on the RefHelp page at the following link: <https://apps.nhsllothian.scot/refhelp/guidelines/colorectal/colorectalcancer/>.

Question:

1b. Are faecal calprotectin tests available in primary care in your area and for what indications?

Answer:

Yes, this test is directly available to primary care. Information about indications can be found on the RefHelp page at the following link, please see the primary care management tab: <https://apps.nhsllothian.scot/refhelp/guidelines/gastrointestinal/faecalcalprotectin/>

Question:

2. If they are not available, please list the area(s) where faecal calprotectin tests is unavailable.

Answer:

The tests are available as described.

Question:

3. How many diagnostic pathways do you currently have for patients presenting with Lower gastrointestinal symptoms?

Answer:

There are six relevant pathways in GI.

Question:

4. Please can you list the titles of the pathways?

Answer:

The pathways are:

- Colorectal cancer,
<https://apps.nhslothian.scot/refhelp/guidelines/colorectal/colorectalcancer/>
- Altered bowel habit,
<https://apps.nhslothian.scot/refhelp/guidelines/gastrointestinal/alteredbowelhabit/>
- Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS),
<https://apps.nhslothian.scot/refhelp/guidelines/gastrointestinal/irritablebowelsyndromes/>
- Inflammatory bowel disease,
<https://apps.nhslothian.scot/refhelp/guidelines/gastrointestinal/inflammatoryboweldisease/>
- Faecal calprotectin,
<https://apps.nhslothian.scot/refhelp/guidelines/gastrointestinal/faecalcalprotectin/>
- Coeliac, <https://apps.nhslothian.scot/refhelp/guidelines/gastrointestinal/coeliac/>

Question:

5. Which of these pathways include the usage of faecal calprotectin test?

Answer:

The Faecal calprotectin pathway uses this test.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at <https://www.foi.scot/appeal>. If

you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the reviewer at the address at the top of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhslothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
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Cc: Chief Executive