

Dear

Freedom of information – colorectal cancer care policies

I write in response to your request for information in relation to colorectal cancer care policies in NHS Lothian.

Question:

Please provide copies of all policies, procedures, local guidelines, clinical pathways, protocols, or written instructions held by NHS Lothian that were in force at any time between the 1st of January 2022 and the present, and that relate to colorectal cancer care, specifically:

1. Screening and Referral for Colorectal Cancer:

Policies or pathways relating to colorectal cancer screening, such as

- Eligibility criteria for screening
- Use of FIT (Faecal Immunochemical Test), stool tests, colonoscopy, sigmoidoscopy, CT colonography, or other screening investigations
- Thresholds or criteria for urgent referral, further investigation, or repeat testing
- Management of abnormal or borderline screening results

2. Referral pathways for suspected colorectal cancer, including:

Criteria for urgent suspicion of cancer referral. including the below

- Symptoms, blood test results, imaging findings, or FIT thresholds that trigger referral
- Circumstances requiring escalation, urgent investigation, or specialist review.
- Diagnosis and investigation

3. Guidelines relating to the diagnosis and investigation of colorectal cancer, including:

- Recommended investigations for suspected colorectal cancer
- Use and interpretation of FIT testing
- Indications for colonoscopy, biopsy, imaging, or repeat investigations
- Management of inconclusive, equivocal, or negative test results where suspicion remains

4. Treatment and Management of Colorectal Cancer:

Clinical pathways, protocols, or guidance relating to treatment of colorectal cancer, including the below:

- Surgical management

- Chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immunotherapy, or palliative treatment pathways
 - Multidisciplinary team (MDT) decision-making processes
 - Follow-up, surveillance, and recurrence monitoring
5. Family History and Hereditary Cancer Risk:
- Policies or guidance relating to assessment of family history of colorectal or related cancers
 - Criteria for identifying increased hereditary cancer risk
 - Referral pathways for genetic counselling or specialist review
 - Use of risk assessment tools or criteria relating to hereditary cancer syndromes
6. Genetic Testing and Screening:
- Guidance relating to genetic screening or testing for hereditary colorectal cancer syndromes
 - Criteria or thresholds for offering genetic testing
 - Indications for testing for conditions such as Lynch syndrome, familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP), or other hereditary cancer syndromes
 - Circumstances in which tumour testing, germline testing, or family screening should be offered
 - Protocols relating to cascade testing or screening of relatives
7. Patient Information:
- Any patient-facing leaflets, written advice, consent documents, or informational materials relating to:
- Colorectal cancer screening
 - Diagnostic investigations
 - Genetic testing or hereditary cancer assessment
 - Treatment options for colorectal cancer and follow-up care

Answer:

I have attached the following documents: NHS Lothian Colorectal Timed Cancer Pathway

The following documents are available online:

British Society of Gastroenterology, Guidelines for Management of Hereditary Colorectal Cancer, https://www.bsg.org.uk/BSG-Media/Guidelines-for-the-management-of-hereditary-colorectal-cancer-full_.pdf

UK Cancer Genetics Group Guidelines for specific gene testing, <https://www.ukcgg.org/information-education/ukcgg-leaflets-and-guidelines/>

Patient information provided is available online:

Lynch Syndrome, www.lynch-syndrome-uk.org ,
<https://patientinfolibrary.royalmarsden.nhs.uk/lynchsyndrome> , <https://canchoose.org.uk/> ,
<https://eveappeal.org.uk/inherited-risks/lynch-syndrome/>.

Bowel Cancer, <https://www.macmillan.org.uk/cancer-information-and-support/worried-about-cancer/causes-and-risk-factors/lynch-syndrome-ls> , www.bowelcanceruk.org.uk.

NHS Lothian also has the following patient information leaflets which are available on the NHS Lothian Policy Online website:

Lynch Syndrome MLH1, MSH2, EPCAM, <https://policyonline.nhslothian.scot/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Lynch-Syndrome-MLH1-MSH2-EPCAM.pdf>

Lynch Syndrome MSH6 <https://policyonline.nhslothian.scot/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Lynch-Syndrome-MSH6.pdf>

Lynch Syndrome PMS2, <https://policyonline.nhslothian.scot/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Lynch-Syndrome-PMS2.pdf>

MUTYH Associated Polyposis, <https://policyonline.nhslothian.scot/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/MUTYH-Associated-Polyposis.pdf>

Family History of Colon (Bowel) Cancer, <https://policyonline.nhslothian.scot/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Family-History-of-Colon-Cancer.pdf>

Genetic Testing for Multiple Colon Polyps, <https://policyonline.nhslothian.scot/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Genetic-Testing-for-Multiple-Colon-Polyps.pdf>

Lynch Syndrome Predictive Testing, <https://policyonline.nhslothian.scot/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Lynch-Syndrome-Predictive-Testing.pdf>

This information is exempt under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information otherwise accessible

(1) Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under section 1(1) is exempt information.

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.

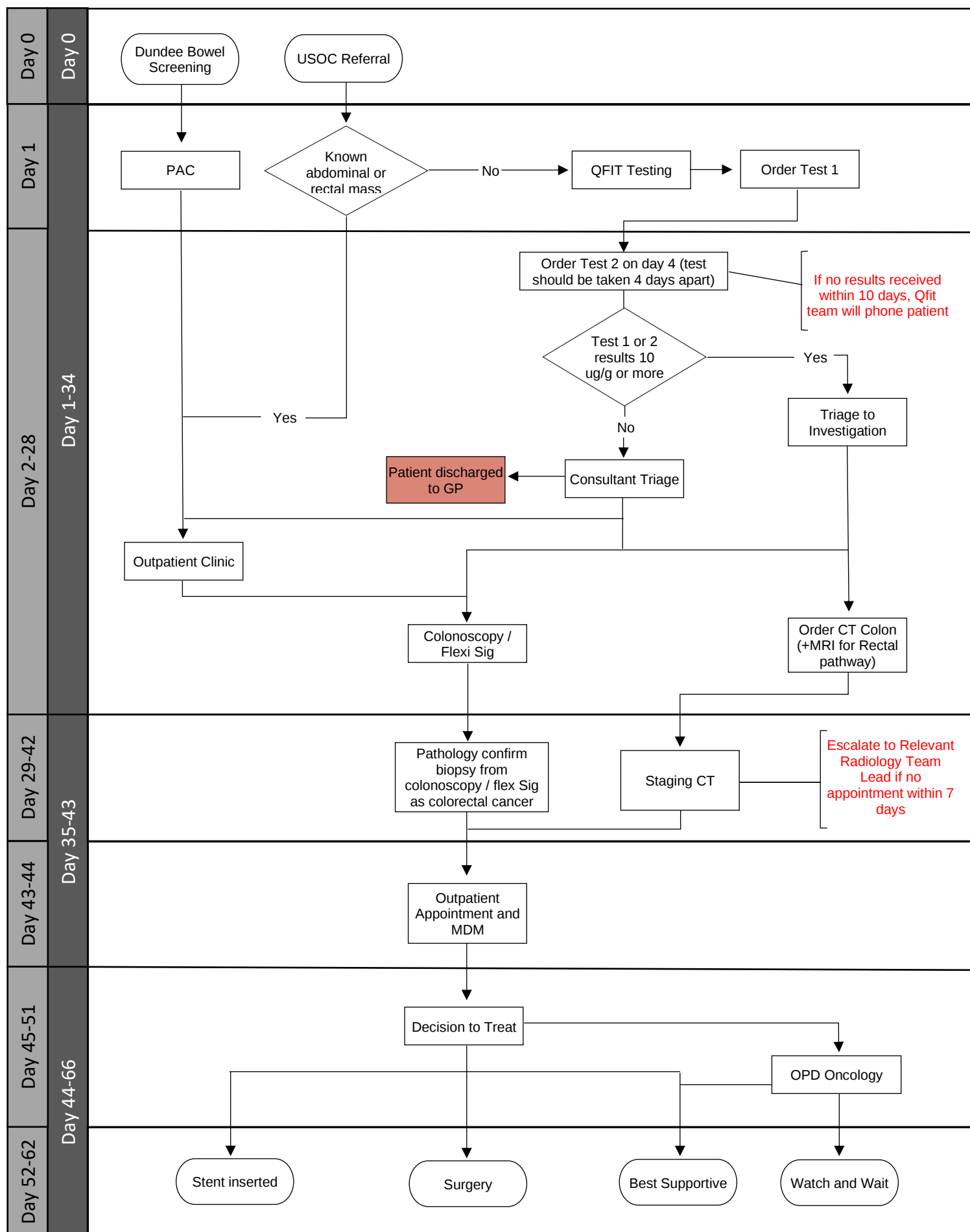
FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhsllothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

alison macdonald
Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive
Enc.

Colorectal Timed Cancer Pathway

Date Updated: 27/03/2025



Current performance data taken from TRAK CWT pathway stages May 24-March 25

Document confirmed as a true and accurate representation of the pathway

Tumour Lead/ CNS – Chinnappa Reddy/Linda Sherwood

Service Manager – Vicki Stewart

Diagnostics – Rebecca Buchan

Primary Care – Lorna Porteous

Oncology/ Radiotherapy – Ewan

Escalation Point	Escalation Contact
Waiting list manager	Nicola Lightbody
Relevant Radiology Team Lead	Rebecca Buchan
Consultant Radiologist	Dr John Taylor
Qfit Team	Ext 33836 Frances.Gunn@nhsllothian.scot.nhs.uk

