

Dear Colleagues

Launch of new vague cancer symptoms pathway for patients over 75 years old

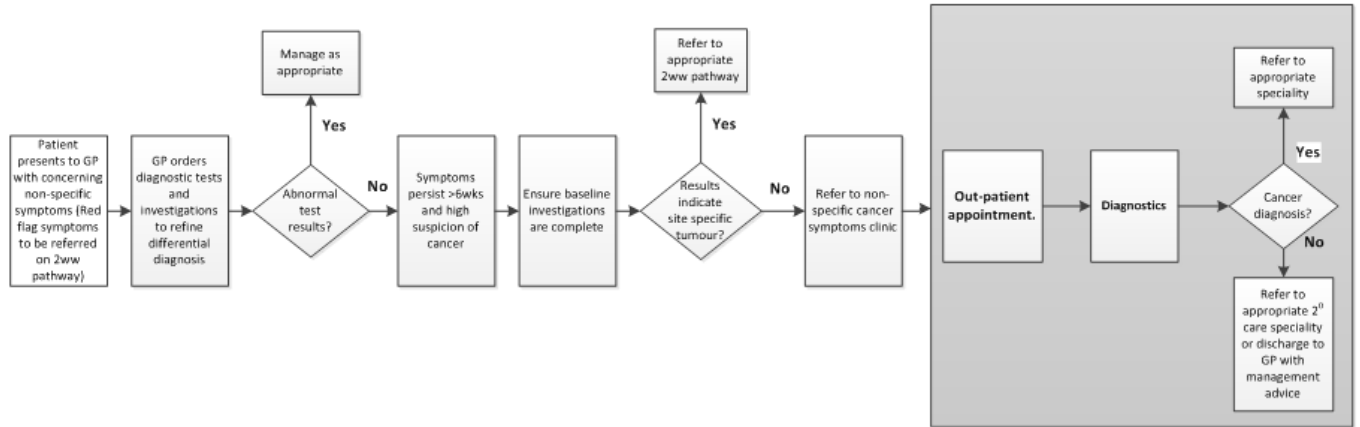
A new vague cancer symptoms pathway for patients over 75 years old is starting on 27th January at Sherwood Forest Hospitals (SFH). The new pathway provides a structured process for investigating patients with non-specific but serious symptoms which causes the GP to suspect cancer. Currently these patients could be seen in primary care on numerous occasions and have multiple 2ww referrals to various tumour site specific pathways.

The pathway is for over 75 year olds only. It is open to all Mansfield & Ashfield and Newark & Sherwood practices. SFH are working on a pathway for under 75 years and we expect this to be launched within 6 months.

Referral Criteria for the pathway are;

- Cannot place patient on site-specific 2WW pathway
- Weight loss in absence of GI symptoms
- Unexplained DVT
- GP gut feeling that patient has cancer
- Anorexia in absence of GI symptoms

The pathway is shown below. Mandatory screening tests (FBC, UE, LFTs, Bone Profile, ESR, TFTs, HbA1c and CXR) must be carried out before considering a referral on the vague symptoms pathway. Abnormal results should be managed as appropriate including consideration of a site specific 2ww pathway. Only patients with normal results or abnormal but non-specific results should be considered for the vague symptoms pathway. If the suspicion is a recurrence of a previous cancer the patient should be referred back to the original specialty.



Patients will be assessed in clinic by a geriatrician to ascertain which tests are needed. The more clinical information that can be provided with the referral, the better, as this will help inform decisions.

Non-cancer conditions diagnosed on the pathway that require secondary care treatment will be onward referred by the service as appropriate. GPs will not be asked to make another referral.

To make a referral please use ERS and the Ardens vague symptoms referral template. In ERS select speciality = 2ww and Clinic type = 2WW Cancer of unknown primary.

Speciality Clinic Type

Service name is 2ww Vague Symptoms > 75 yrs old – SHFT – RK5.

Service Details

Service ID: 7958793

* Service Name: 2WW Vague Symptoms > 75 yrs old - SFHFT - RK5

* Request Types Supported: Appointment Request Advice Request Triage Request

If you have any questions please contact simon.oliver@nhs.net in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

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