**Draft Primary Care Update**

**November 2024**

**The Rapid Diagnostic Clinic (RDC) at Barts Health NHS Trust for Non-Specific Symptom (NSS) referrals**

Following our update in August we would like to share the current waiting time of **8 weeks** for NSS referrals into our RDC clinic (formerly MRADC)

We apologise for the recent service delays and the impact this has, and we fully understand the worries and concerns that this brings to you, your patients and their families. The long waits are due to understaffing and high referral numbers.

Whilst we work through the backlog and service improvements you may wish to use alternative referral routes. These could include referring your patient to a direct access diagnostic pathway or alternative urgent suspected cancer (2WW) clinic. Below are some suggested routes you may wish to consider:

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| **Alternative Referral Routes/Pathways** |
| * Direct access diagnostic pathways - [Early Cancer Diagnosis PCN DES and QOF Support Guide July 2024.pdf](https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-07/Early%20Cancer%20Diagnosis%20PCN%20DES%20and%20QOF%20Support%20Guide%20July%202024.pdf)
* [Barts Health GP Direct Access to CT for Suspected Pancreatic Cancer – North East London](https://primarycare.northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk/home/diagnostics/barts-health-gp-direct-access-to-ct-for-suspected-pancreatic-cancer/)
* [City & Hackney Direct Access CT for Unintentional Significant Weight Loss](https://gps.cityandhackneyccg.nhs.uk/pathways/direct-access-for-unintentional-significant-weight-loss)
* Another suspected cancer pathway (e.g. upper GI for abdominal pains/anaemia, etc) <https://www.gatewayc.org.uk/cancer-maps/>
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Working with the GP Leads and NSS expert reference group a filter function test bundle has been created on the pathology ordering systems (T-Quest and [Cyberlab Guide](https://nhs.sharepoint.com/%3Af%3A/s/msteams_61464c/Ej7YurbdjZdHnOorGpEAcT8BP755UM_uYyoPqxl8Aqnu1g?e=3zj6VG)), the name of the test bundle is RDC NSS Pre-Referral Test Bundle\*.

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| ‘**RDC NSS Pre-Referral Test Bundle’** |
| FBC | U&Es with eGFR | Protein EP | HbA1c |
| CRP | LFTs | TSH | Bone |
| *PSA (male only)* | *CA12-5 (female only)* | B12 | Ferritin |
| Folate | FIT |  |  |

*\*This will be available on T-Quest for City & Hackney GPs within the next 2 weeks*

Filter function tests should be used to support the referral pathway and to support GPs to refer patients via the most appropriate route (that is, non-specific symptoms or site-specific). This leads to a higher referral quality, reduces the risk of test duplication later in a patient’s pathway and ensures all necessary pre-investigations (e.g. kidney function) have been completed, removing potential delays further along the pathway.

You may also wish to consider ordering the following ‘optional’ tests as recommended by the Faster Diagnosis Framework where clinically indicated:

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| ‘**RDC NSS Optional Tests’** |
| Coeliac serology | LDH | GGT | HIV  |
| Hep B/C serology | Clotting (for lymphadenopathy referrals) |  |

An internal review is being undertaken to streamline the services that filter into the RDC clinic (NSS, Sarcoma and CUP) as well as establishing a sustainable capacity and demand model. The RDC service has moved internally and is now being managed under the Acute Medicine team at the Royal London. We are working with the cancer alliance GP leads and place cancer GP leads to develop the clinic model. We will provide you with an update on the progress of the RDC service redesign in January 2025. There will be a separate update on the Sarcoma referral pathway.

If you have any questions about the changes to the service or if you require an update on a patient, you have referred on the NSS pathway, please do contact us:

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