

Primary Care Update

16TH February 2026 BHRUT NHS Trust for Non-Specific Symptom (NSS) referrals

Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust have undertaken a comprehensive review of the sustainability and future viability of the Rapid Diagnostic Clinic (RDC) service. This review has been conducted over the past six months to assess referral patterns, clinical outcomes, workforce requirements, and financial sustainability.

The findings of the review indicate that approximately 76% of patients currently referred to the RDC present with symptoms that align with Upper Gastrointestinal (UGI) cancer referral criteria. In addition, a number of patients have already been referred to site-specific pathways prior to or alongside referral to the RDC. For those patients assessed through the RDC pathway, the average cancer conversion rate has been 1.3%, which is significantly lower than anticipated for a non-specific symptoms pathway.

Due to being unable to secure recurrent funding it has not been possible to establish and maintain a safe and resilient staffing model to support ongoing delivery of the clinic.

As a result of these factors, BHRUT will be progressing plans to close the RDC service currently provided at Barking, Havering and Redbridge

Please see the proposed timeline for service closure below:

| Activity | Date |
|---|------------|
| Closure to new referrals | 16/02/2026 |
| Manage patients already referred to RDC for discharge or transfer | 16/04/2026 |
| Closure of the RDC | 16/04/2026 |

We apologise for the impact this may have, and we fully understand the worries and concerns that this brings to you, your patients and their families.

In the absence of the RDC, we encourage practices to continue to seek the most appropriate direct access pathway for their patient by using:

1. Urgent Suspected Cancer Pathway to specific tumour groups
2. Referral on the routine pathway
3. General Practitioner Direct Diagnostics

Should you require any further advice, clarification, or specialist clinical guidance, please direct your correspondence to the Gastroenterology Leads via the dedicated mailbox at bhrut.gastroleads@nhs.net.

This mailbox is monitored on a regular basis, and enquiries will be reviewed and responded to by a member of the Gastroenterology leadership team at the earliest opportunity. To facilitate a timely and comprehensive response, please ensure that all relevant clinical information is included within your communication.

