



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference North East & North Cumbria
ICB\539

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16/10/2023

Applicant
By Email:

Dear Applicant,

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request for Information – NHS North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

Thank you for your request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 18/09/2023 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

For information Clinical Commissioning Groups ceased to exist on 30 June 2022. Services that were previously delivered by the CCG are now being delivered by the successor organisation NHS North East and North Cumbria (ICB). This covers the areas of County Durham, Newcastle Gateshead, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland and Tees Valley.

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

Request

- 1. Do you have a clear pathway in primary care for the investigation of non-cancer related lower gastrointestinal symptoms that include the use of faecal calprotectin tests? If yes, please attach a copy.**
- 2. Are a) qFIT and b) faecal calprotectin tests available in primary care in your area and for what indications?**
- 3. Are a) qFIT and b) faecal calprotectin tests available in secondary care in your area and for what indications?**

Response

County Durham:

1. *County Durham does not have specific pathway for suspected IBD (Inflammatory Bowel Disease which is non- malignant) involving use of Faecal Calprotectin investigation in Primary Care. The suspected IBD pathway is covered in the CSI – Diarrhoea section and is line with the national guidance. This is attached & embedded below.*



County Durham
Pathway for IBD.pdf

2. *Both tests are available in primary care. qFIT is used when a clinician suspects colorectal cancer. It is a required test for almost all suspected colorectal cancer symptoms, with exception of Rectal Mass, Anal mass or Ulceration, within our current Fast Track Suspected Lower GI Cancer referrals (Previously known as 2 week waits). A qFIT result of 10 or more would be deemed positive and would require investigation via the Fast track Suspected Lower GI Cancer referral route. A qFIT result <10 would be deemed a negative result, but currently clinicians can refer these patients on the Fast track Suspected Lower GI Cancer referral route for certain conditions. Please see the current Fast track Suspected Lower GI Cancer referral forms attached.*



N Tyne & NG
NCA-2WW-COMBINENCA-2WW-LGI-color



N Tyne & NG
NCA-2WW-LGI-color

3. *Both tests are available in secondary care, for specific information not held by NENC ICB please direct your request to County Durham & Darlington NHS FT: cdda-tr.cddffoi@nhs.net*

Northumberland:

1. *Please see embedded and attached documents.*



Northumberland



Northumberland



NCA-combined-GI-p



Northumberland

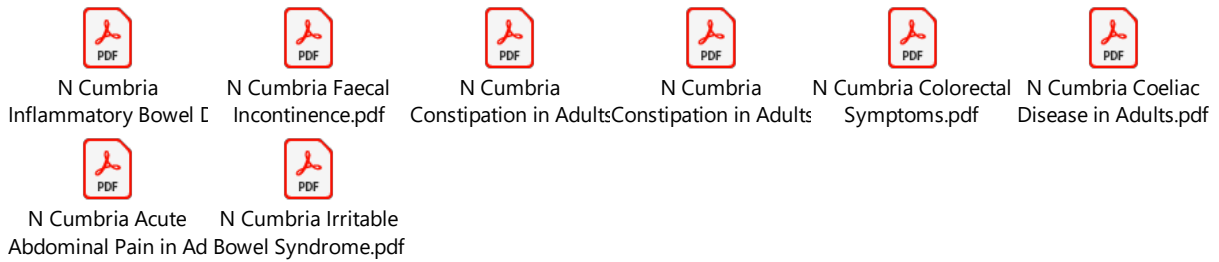
FIT_instructions_Nov2Calprotectin in primarathway-1-July-2021-LGI-2WW-FAQ_V1.pdf

2. *Yes, both are available in primary care. Indications are attached in the supporting documents in Q1.*
3. *In accordance with section 1 of the act this information cannot be provided as it is not held by NENC ICB. It is likely this information is held by Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. They can be contacted on: foi@northumbria.nhs.uk.*

North Cumbria:

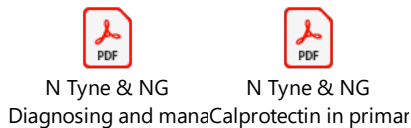
1. *Yes, we have 7 Community Health Pathways which link to calprotectin and FIT guidance and 1 Hospital Health Pathway. Please see attached & embedded.*
2. *Our community health pathways are: Colorectal symptoms, constipation in adults, Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Irritable Bowel syndrome, Coeliac disease in adults, acute abdominal pain in adults, faecal incontinence. Please see attached & embedded.*

3. *Our hospital health pathway is constipation in adults. Please see attached and embedded. There may be more specific information not held by NENC ICB for that please direct your request to North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT: FOIrequest@cumbria.nhs.uk*

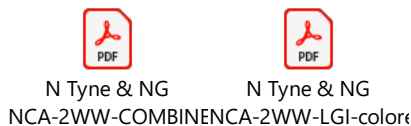


Newcastle, Gateshead & North Tyneside:

1. *Faecal calprotectin tests are available for all Clinicians in Newcastle, Gateshead, & North Tyneside to Order as an investigation. Clinicians have access to the attached & embedded guidelines regarding non-cancer related lower GI symptoms, alongside national guidance from NICE.*



2. *Both tests are available in primary care. qFIT is used when a clinician suspects colorectal cancer. It is a required test for almost all suspected colorectal cancer symptoms, with exception of Rectal Mass, Anal mass or Ulceration, within our current Fast Track Suspected Lower GI Cancer referrals (Previously known as 2 week waits). A qFIT result of 10 or more would be deemed positive and would require investigation via the Fast track Suspected Lower GI Cancer referral route. A qFIT result <10 would be deemed a negative result, but currently clinicians can refer these patients on the Fast track Suspected Lower GI Cancer referral route for certain conditions. Please see the current Fast track Suspected Lower GI Cancer referral forms attached.*



3. *Both tests are available in secondary care, for specific information not held by NENC ICB please direct your request to The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT & Gateshead Health NHS FT: nuth.freedom@nhs.net & ghnt.foi.enquiries@nhs.net.*

South Tyneside:

1. *Yes. Please see embedded and attached:*



2. a) *yes - to assess risk of colorectal cancer, b) yes - to help exclude inflammatory bowel disease*

3. a) *yes - to assess risk of colorectal cancer. b) yes - to help exclude inflammatory bowel disease. For more specific information not held by NENC ICB please direct your request to South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT: stsft.freedomofinformation@nhs.net*

Sunderland:

1. Yes. Please see embedded and attached pathway.



Sunderland FIT in
colorectal pathways.p

2. The use of FIT in those with NG12 colorectal cancer symptoms (bar anal/rectal mass or anal ulceration) should be used to inform referral. It is expected those with a FIT result fHb <10µg Hb/g, a normal full blood count and no concerning symptoms are safety netted in primary care or referred on a non-urgent pathway where appropriate.

Faecal Immunochemical Testing (FIT) has been introduced into the lower Gastrointestinal (LGI) urgent cancer pathway as a triage tool to support prioritisation of colonoscopy capacity for those at highest risk of colorectal cancer.



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3. Both tests are available in secondary care, for specific information not held by NENC ICB please direct your request to South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT: stsft.freedomofinformation@nhs.net

Tees Valley:

1. Yes, FCP and qFIT testing is part of the non-cancer lower GI investigations within primary care which adheres to NICE guidelines. Pathway embedded & attached.

2. Yes, for ruling out inflammatory bowel disease and bowel cancer.



N Tyne & NG
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N Tyne & NG
NCA-2WW-LGI-color

3. Both tests are available in secondary care, for specific information not held by NENC ICB please direct your request to North Tees & Hartlepool NHS FT & South Tees Hospitals NHS FT: foi@nth.nhs.uk & foi@stees.nhs.uk

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the NHS ICB website <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/>.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Senior Governance Manager using the contact details at the top of this letter quoting the appropriate reference number.

If you are not content with the outcome your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner

cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by The North of England Commissioning Support Unit.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

www.ico.org.uk

Any information we provide following your request under the Freedom of Information Act will not confer an automatic right for you to re-use that information, for example to publish it. If you wish to re-use the information that we provide and you do not specify this in your initial application for information then you must make a further request for its re-use as per the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 www.legislation.gov.uk . This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours sincerely

Ehren Smith

Information Governance Officer