**NCL Rapid Diagnostic Centre (RDC) FAQ**v1 April 2021

* What is an RDC?

*RDCs offer a diagnostic pathway for all patients with non-specific symptoms that could indicate cancer. This patient cohort doesn’t necessarily fit the criteria for a referral onto a specific 2WW pathway.*

* Where are the RDCs?

*RDCs are located at three locations across NCL:*

*o   UCLH*

*o   North Middlesex University Hospital*

*o   Royal Free London (opening late May 2021 TBC)*

* What are the referral criteria?

*The RDC referral criteria are:*

1. *New* ***unexplained and unintentional*** *weight loss;*
2. *New* ***unexplained*** *constitutional symptoms;*
3. *New* ***unexplained*** *vague abdominal pain;*
4. *GP ‘gut feeling’ of cancer diagnosis.*

* What are the exclusion criteria?

1. *Patient does NOT have specific alarm symptoms warranting referral onto site-specific two week wait pathway (in line with* [*NG12*](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng12)*);*
2. *Patient is WELL enough to attend as an outpatient and does not need acute admission;*
3. *Patient is LESS likely to have a non-cancer diagnosis suitable for another pathway;*
4. *Patient is NOT currently being investigated for the same problem by another specialist team;*
5. *Patient does NOT have a definite or almost definite diagnosis of metastatic disease. Patients with pre-existing evidence of a primary of unknown origin (e.g. biopsy, imaging or examination) should be referred to a Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP) service rather than the RDC.*

* What is the process for submitting an eRS referral?

*The referral process is as follows:*

1. *Order ‘Filter Function’ test bundle (via tQuest or SunQuest)*
2. *Complete ‘Filter Function’ tests*
3. *Once Filter Function tests results are returned, download RDC referral form from Emis and complete.*
4. *Select specific RDC clinic within eRS*
5. *Submit referral form via eRS*

* What are Filter Function tests?

*Filter Function tests are a nationally prescribed set of investigations that aid clinical decision making. They include:*

* *Standard urinalysis (eg multistix).*
* *FIT*
* *FBC*
* *CRP*
* *U&E with eGFR*
* *Ca/Phosphate*
* *LFTS: Gamma GT, Albumin Ab, GGT, ALT, AST and bilirubin*
* *TFTS: TSH and T4*
* *HBA1c*
* *Vitamin D*
* *CA-125 (Women)*
* *PSA (Men)*
* Can I make a referral without including the Filter Function tests?

*Please include Filter Function tests results wherever possible. If you are unable to arrange a tests please provide a reason for not including it within the referral.*

* How do we find the clinics on eRS?

*You can find Rapid Diagnostic Centres listed as a 2WW specialty clinics on eRS.*

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* Where can I find the GP referral form?

*You can find the referral form in the EMIS document library. These are in the 2WW Pan London Referral Forms folder >*Rapid Diagnostic Centre (RDC) for Non-Specific Symptoms Suspected Cancer Referral Form.

*For Camden, please find the form on the* [*Emis Forms*](https://gps.northcentrallondonccg.nhs.uk/gp-it-it-systems/emis-forms)*page.*

* Who is responsible for carrying out the FIT test?

*GPs are responsible for providing a FIT test to patients that they would like to refer to the RDC.*

* Who is responsible for carrying out the urinalysis test?

*GPs are responsible for providing a urinalysis test to patients that they would like to refer to the RDC.*

* What is the difference between the RDC service and Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)/ Malignancy of Unknown Origin services?

*CUP/ MUO services are for patients who have malignancy that has been CONFIRMED by radiological investigations. RDCs are for patients where patients have non-specific symptoms that could indicate cancer but no confirmation of malignancy.*

* Why has vitamin D been included in the Filter Function tests?

*Vitamin D deficiency is associated with fatigue, which is one of the non-specific symptoms in the referral criteria. Carrying out this test will rule out vitamin D deficiency.*

* What happens if the referral forms don't auto-populate with Filter Function test results?

*We have fixed the referral form so that this shouldn’t be an issue in the majority of cases. When tests results don’t auto-populate in the referral form, we kindly ask that you manually include as many results as possible in the referral form.*