



The Rapid Diagnostic Centre (RDC) at Barking, Havering, and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust (BHRUT)

The creation of the RDC forms part of the NHS Next Steps on the Five Year Forward Plan (Department of Health, 2017) to enhance the speed and efficiency of providing patients with a definitive cancer diagnosis. Patients referred into the RDC present with non-specific symptoms and follow a 2ww pathway and managed within the 28-day Faster Diagnosis Standard (FDS). Unlike site specific 2ww pathways, where patients who are not found to have a diagnosis of cancer are referred back to their GP, patients are managed to a diagnostic outcome, with a referral onto the relevant specialist service.

National evidence suggests that the cancer conversion rate from this pathway ranges from about 9 – 18% depending on the geographical location of the service. Patients who do not have a definitive diagnosis of cancer have been found to have a range of complex non-malignant diseases and often require specialist multi-disciplinary management and treatment.

The RDC at BHRUT has a dedicated team to manage this patient cohort. This team is made up of a dedicated Consultant, two Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs), a Patient Pathway Navigator and Patient Pathway Co-ordinator. This allows patients to be efficiently processed, tracked, and provided with a diagnostic outcome in line with best practice and national standards.

This approach to patient management enhances patient experience and satisfaction and creates effective channels of communication and close collaboration with both Primary Care and the specialities within Secondary Care. We plan to further enhance collaboration with Primary Care by creating sessional support from our GP colleagues as the service develops.

To enable us to launch the service in a controlled manner and to provide assurance, we have opted to soft launch. The service went live on 4th of May 2021. As the RDC consultant does not start his substantive post until 21st of May and will require a period of orientation, we agreed to open this early adopter pathway to GPs within Barking and Dagenham only. Within these practices, we have reconfigured C the Signs to remove the option to refer to Barts Health and replaced this with the BHRUT RDC Service.

C the Signs now has the referral form and Patient Information Leaflet embedded and we have also created a 'GP Communication on a Page' which summarises the referral criteria and process which can be accessed via the Dashboard.

We will be confirming the full launch date imminently, which will extend access to the service to Havering and Redbridge GPs. We will be working closely with Primary Care to ensure that all providers are sighted on timelines and the benefits of referring patients through this pathway.

The team are available to advise and support you if you have any questions relating to the service or referral criteria and can be contacted on **0208 970 5748**

Alternatively, you can e-mail us via our generic e-mail address:
bhrut.rapiddiagnosticcentre@nhs.net

We look forward to working with you.

The RDC Team



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