

# Vague Symptom Pathway

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# Cancer earlier diagnosis and improved treatments mean that longer term survival increasing

- The Long Term Plan has an aim to transform cancer care so that by 2028 an extra 55,000 people each year will survive for 5 or more years following their cancer diagnosis
- It also aims for 3 in 4 cancers to be diagnosed at an early stage
- YOU are in the East of England Cancer Alliance North (includes Suffolk, North East Essex, Norfolk and Cambs)
- Funding is helping some of the projects here....there is actually increased funding for these services.
- The NEE CCG is also focussing on cancer care and supporting earlier diagnosis and ongoing cancer care.

# RDS

- Rapid Diagnostic Service – not an actual place
- Has a 5 year plan of development from the Integrated Care System (ICS) Cancer Alliance
- Vague symptom pathway now running
- To support other diagnoses, but primarily cancer exclusion
- Running some community based clinics – hybrid primary/secondary care model
- Currently imaging co-located to hospital sites still but potential for change to this

# Staffing

- Currently varies by area
- Mixture of consultant led, GP led, specialist nurse led
- West Suffolk consultant led but looking to add a GP to this
- ESNEFT currently GP led and potential for expansion
- ESNEFT specialist nurse joining from the end of this month
- Will provide more continuity of care and ability for mobile phone point of contact for patients and professionals.
- So how do you access it?

# Referral form

- Available on ERS
- Wide referral criteria BUT
- PLEASE DO MANDATED PRE REFERRAL TESTS!!!
- These have come from previous learning as a lot of the vague patients become less vague ie if weight loss and FiT positive- colorectal
- Designed for patients you are worried may have cancer but that don't fit existing 2WW pathways
- Any additional thoughts helpful, just a box tick less so
- Aim to assess within 2 weeks and working towards 28 day faster diagnosis standard
- Some IT challenges but moving towards working on SystemOne so you should be able to see our thoughts and track contacts too if you are a SystemOne practice.

# Key information

- Patient information letter
- Email contact: [iesccg.vaguesymptoms@nhs.net](mailto:iesccg.vaguesymptoms@nhs.net)
- Referral form
- Flow chart