

Ref: FOI/00116/CMICB  
11 November 2022

**Your Request:**

**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 so, I would appreciate if you are able to share any details you may have.**

**Our Response:**

Please find listed below the information held by each of the former CCG areas that now make up NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB in relation to pathways in primary care for the investigation of non-cancer related lower GI symptoms that include the use of faecal calprotectin tests.

**Cheshire**

Please find enclosed '*CoCH Faecal Calprotectin Guideline for Primary Care*'.

**Halton**

No pathway for faecal calprotectin testing for investigating gastrointestinal conditions.

**Knowsley**

Pathway for faecal calprotectin investigations via Royal Liverpool Broadgreen University Hospitals, who provide the below suggested investigations:

- Faecal calprotectin in patients under the age of 50 (to have followed IBS / North Mersey pathway prior to referral is calprotectin under 100)
- For Diarrhoea; +/- abdo pain +/- rectal bleeding +/- weight loss please request FBC, U&E, LFT's CRP, atTG, b12 &Folate, TFT's, glucose, Faecal calprotectin & Stool for culture
- For Constipation; +/- abdo pain +/- rectal bleeding +/- weight loss please request FBC, U&E, LFT's , CRP, atTG, b12 &Folate, TFT's, glucose, and calcium profile
- For abdo pain; +/- weight loss please request FBC, U&E, LFT's , CRP TFT's and calcium profile
- For reflux and/or Dyspepsia +/- weight loss please request FBC, U&E, LFT's CRP (please consider referral for Gastroscopy)
- Nausea & Vomiting and/or dysphagia +/- weight loss please request FBC, U&E, LFT, CRP, atTG, TFT's glucose (please also refer suspected Dysphagia for Gastroscopy)

**Liverpool**

Liverpool follows the North Mersey gastrointestinal pathways, launched in September 2021. IBS and chronic diarrhoea pathways include reference to use of faecal calprotectin tests.

### **South Sefton/Southport & Formby**

There are 6 primary care gastrointestinal pathways that support the diagnosis and management of non-cancer Gastrointestinal conditions, with appropriate safety netting for symptoms suggestive of cancer. Of the six pathways two of them, the Irritable Bowel Syndrome pathway and the Diarrhoea in Adults (Chronic) pathway use the Faecal Calprotectin test. The test is used in conjunction with other laboratory investigations and clinical signs to determine the appropriate course of management and advise on thresholds for referral to secondary care or request for advice through local Advice and Guidance services.

### **St Helens**

GPs in St Helens can request a faecal calprotectin test if they wish to investigate non-cancer related problems e.g. to identify inflammatory bowel disease or Crohn's. The tests are requested by primary care and processed in a laboratory and the result shared with the GP to inform the patient.

### **Warrington**

No pathway for faecal calprotectin testing for investigating gastrointestinal conditions.

### **Wirral**

Pathway for GPs available on Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust website via the following link:

<https://www.wuth.nhs.uk/our-departments/a-z-of-departments/gastroenterology/>

Enc: *CoCH Faecal Calprotectin Guideline for Primary Care*