

# Faecal Calprotectin Guideline for Primary Care

(red text = pathway exit)

Faecal calprotectin testing is recommended as an option to support clinicians with the differential diagnosis of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) or irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) in adults with recent onset lower gastrointestinal symptoms for whom specialist assessment is being considered. (NICE DG11)

### Inclusion Criteria

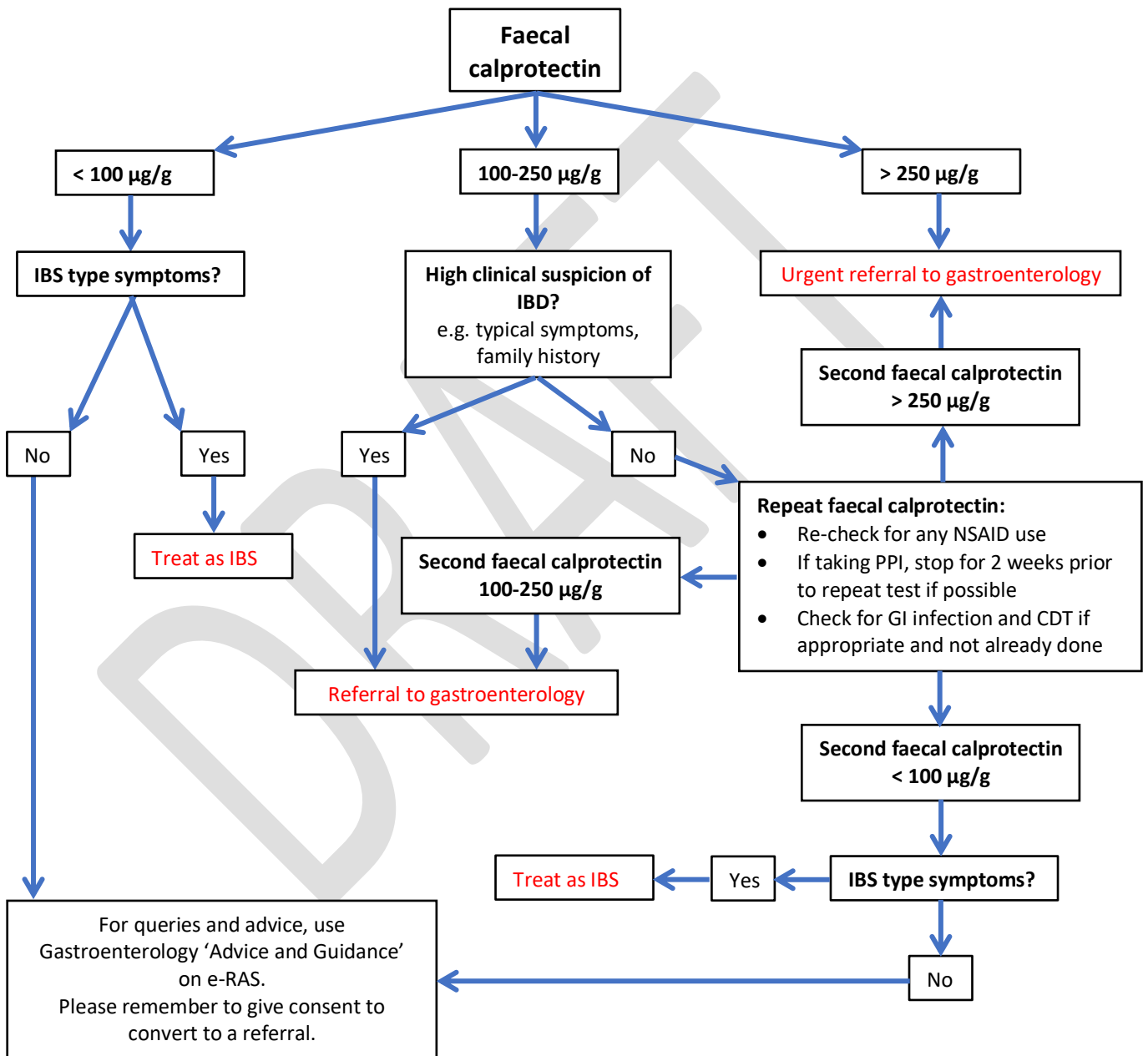
All of:

- Adult aged 16 – 40
- Suspected irritable bowel syndrome
- Lower GI symptoms of > 4 weeks duration

### Exclusion Criteria

Any of:

- Rectal bleeding
- NSAID use in past 6 weeks



### References

- <https://www.bsg.org.uk/clinical-resource/bsg-consensus-guidelines-on-the-management-of-inflammatory-bowel-disease-in-adults/> Lamb CA, et al. Gut 2019; 0:1–106. doi:10.1136/gutjnl-2019-318484
- Suspected cancer: recognition and referral NICE guidance NG12 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng12>
- Faecal calprotectin diagnostic test for inflammatory diseases of the bowel NICE diagnostics guidance DG11 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/DG11>

### Abbreviations

BSG = British Society of Gastroenterology  
IBD = inflammatory bowel disease

CDT = Clostridium difficile toxin  
IBS = irritable bowel syndrome

FIT = faecal immunochemical test