

FOI 3057

7<sup>th</sup> May 2025

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

---

1. Any 'triage protocol' for both regular referrals and Urgent/ Red Flag referrals at Craigavon Area Hospital from February 2018 to December 2020, specifically, in relation to rectal bleeding and suspicion of bowel cancer.

**Response:**

Please find below the NICAN Guidance for RF Referral/Criteria for LGI patients which was in use from February 2018 to December 2020, specifically, in relation to rectal bleeding and suspicion of bowel cancer.

COLORECTAL CANCER
<p><b>Urgent referral:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>any age - <u>palpable rectal mass</u> (intraluminal and not pelvic; a pelvic mass outside the bowel would warrant an urgent referral to a urologist or gynaecologist)</li><li>40 years and above - <u>rectal bleeding with change of bowel habit</u> towards looser stools +/- increased stool frequency <u>persisting 6 weeks or more</u></li><li>60 years and above - rectal bleeding persisting for 6 weeks or more without a change in bowel habit and without anal symptoms</li><li>60 years and above - change in bowel habit to looser stools and/or more frequent stools persisting for 6 weeks or more without rectal bleeding</li><li>any age – with right lower abdominal mass consistent with involvement of the large bowel</li><li>men of any age with unexplained iron deficiency anaemia and a Hb of 11 g/100 ml or below</li><li>non-menstruating women with unexplained iron deficiency anaemia and Hb of 10 g/100 ml or below</li></ul>

Email: [foi.team@southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:foi.team@southerntrust.hscni.net)