Patient presents with Rectal bleeding

Initial consultation and Investigations
- Full medical / family / social history
- Physical examination
- Digital rectal examination (Not recommended if suspected Anal Fissure)
- Full Blood Count
- U&E's

1. Emergency Referral
   - Profuse rectal bleeding causing fainting, or drop in blood pressure or haemoglobin
   - Extremely painful, acutely thrombosed external haemorrhoids presenting within 72 hours of onset for assessment, reduction or excision
   - Internal haemorrhoids that have prolapsed and become swollen, incarcerated, and thrombosed (haemorrhoidectomy is likely to be needed)
   - Perianal abscess and sepsis

   Referral to on call surgeons

2. RED FLAG (2 Week Rule)
   Referral for Colonoscopy (bowl preparation provided by GP: MoviPrep®) – NB: if the GP deems a patient unsuitable for bowel preparation please refer as usual under 2WW outlining this and specify that the patient may need to be seen first
   - Rectal bleeding and change of bowel habit (looser stools and/or increased stool frequency) for > 6 weeks in patients aged > 40 years
   - Change of bowel habit (looser stools and/or increased stool frequency) for > 6 weeks in patients aged > 60 years
   - Lower abdominal mass consistent with large bowel involvement
   - Men of any age with unexplained iron deficiency anaemia, Hb 11.0 g/dl or less
   - Non menstruating women with unexplained iron deficiency anaemia, Hb 10.0 g/dl or less

   Referral for Flexi-Sigmoidoscopy (bowl preparation provided by GP: Phosphate Enema)
   - Rectal bleeding alone (without change in bowel habit and without anal symptoms) for >6 weeks in patients aged > 60 years
   - Palpable rectal mass (intraluminal) at any age

   Cancer Pathway

3. Urgent 6 week Referral
   Rectal bleeding alone (without change in bowel habit and without anal symptoms) for any duration in patients aged > 40 years

4. Rectal bleeding alone (without change in bowel habit and without anal symptoms) for any duration in patients aged < 40 years

5. Rectal bleeding with anal symptoms and without change in bowel habit of any duration or any age

6. Rectal bleeding that falls outside other categories

Pathway Key
- Steps that are based in primary care
- Steps that are based in acute
- Decision making point
- Shared decision making with patient