THE CANCER MAPS TOOL
HELPING GPs TO MAKE REFERRAL DECISIONS
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Together we will beat cancer
https://www.gatewayc.org.uk/cancer-maps

BACKGROUND
The NICE NG12 guidelines were published in June 2015 and represent a large change in how we see “red flag” symptoms:

- **Symptom Recognition**
  - There is now a focus on symptoms recognition – groups of symptoms, which aren’t necessarily intuitive to the organ involved, which might confer a risk of cancer

- **Direct Access Testing**
  - There has been a change in advice for GPs to refer directly for tests rather than to a cancer (or 2 week wait) clinic for some cancers

- **Referral Threshold**
  - The threshold for referral has fallen from a positive predictive value of 5% to 3%

- **New Advice**
  - New signs and symptoms are being considered risk factors for cancer when previously they haven’t

- **New Learning**
  - This has created a need for guidance summaries of NG12 that knowledge of these changes can be easily disseminated and digested.

THE CANCER MAPS

The “Cancer Maps” is an interactive online tool (https://www.gatewayc.org.uk/cancer-maps) based on the NG12 cancer guidelines, designed to be used during consultations to help clinicians with possible cancer symptoms.

A tutorial is embedded within the website and explains how the maps can be used. The main central branches represent the organs or systems, these are followed by the NICE advice (cancer referral, investigation, etc) and, as the branches become more peripheral, the red flag symptoms are listed.

### PILOT EVALUATION

We carried out a pilot evaluation between May and September 2017, in which GPs were invited to use the Cancer Maps tool. On each use of the Cancer Maps tool, participants were asked to feedback on why and how they had used it and whether they would use the tool again.

In September 2017, this was followed by an end of study survey to understand overall perceived usefulness and impact of using the tool.

RESULTS

37 GPs took part in the pilot and used the tool 108 times during the 4 month period (number of uses per GP ranged from 1 to 7). 34 GPs had used the tool and responded to the end of study survey. The great majority of GPs (94%; 32/34) indicated they would recommend the tool to other healthcare professionals.

#### GP FEEDBACK

- "Very visual. Gave links to areas that had not necessarily been considered initially. Links to NICE very helpful. Useful as an illustrative teaching tool and to refer to to check on patient referral options.” Participating GP144

- "It is a succinct, visual aid which provides a rapid overview of the cancer guidelines – a quick reference tool is exactly what clinicians need.” Participating GP146

- “Generally very useful tool. Used it mainly to confirm the need for referral. Also useful for F2 training.” Participating GP143

- "My knowledge of NICE cancer guidelines has improved. I feel more confident when making cancer referrals. More experienced making cancer referrals, though patients still ask for more information about possible cancer referral options and I have made a referral that otherwise would not have been made in this time." Participating GP131

- "It is possible to search for where certain symptoms appear in the guidance. These are listed at the right hand side of the screen and, when highlighted, flash red on the map(s) where they appear. It’s also possible to filter out certain symptoms for your patient by adding their age and gender as part of a search.

There are 4 main ways to use the maps:

- As a quick reference to NICE guidance
- As a decision support tool
- As an educational tool
- With patients to reassure or safety net

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