Safety netting summary

Patient presents/re-presents to GP

Cancer suspected

Check up to date patient contact details

Tell patient:
- Reason for tests
- Who will make follow-up appointment
- When to return for results

Practice system to check and log:
- Patient appointment attendance
- Patient receives results
- Results viewed and acted on (including investigations ordered by locums)

Practice system for communicating abnormal test results to patient

Abnormal results

Cancer confirmed

Cancer excluded

Normal results

New or recurring symptoms

Consider further tests/investigations

Also consider...
- Keep up to date with referral guidelines for suspected cancer
- Conduct an annual audit of new cancer diagnoses
- Carry out a Learning Event of every delayed diagnosis of cancer

Communication to patients

Action for GPs

Action for practice

Education

Cancer suspected

No investigations/referrals but cancer is possible

Repeated consultations for same symptoms?

Log safety netting advice in notes and code symptoms

Process for follow-up including who is responsible

Communicate to patient:
- Uncertainty
- When to come back if symptoms persist
- Red flag symptom/changes

Consider referral/investigations OR planned/patient-initiated review

For references see cruk.org/safetynetting

Together we will beat cancer