What is the audit about?
The National Cancer Diagnosis Audit (NCDA) looks at patient pathways from presentation to cancer diagnosis to:
• provide urgently needed data on the contribution of primary care to cancer diagnoses, which are not available nationally from any other source
• better understand the use of primary care-led investigations and referral pathways, as well as GP access to diagnostics
• inform delivery of best care for cancer patients
Repeated rounds of the audit allow monitoring of the impact of changes at practice and Health Board level, for ongoing reflection and quality improvement.

Why should you take part?
• Improve cancer care and outcomes for your patients
• Understand how your practice compares to others
• Highlight and evidence good practice
• Identify diagnostic challenges and causes of avoidable delays
• Demonstrate quality improvement for GP appraisal and re-validation

What we’ve learnt so far*
• GPs refer promptly (65.3% of patients referred to a specialist after fewer than three consultations)
• Nearly two thirds of patients (65%) had an investigation ordered by primary care before a referral was made, the majority of these were blood tests
• Half of patients diagnosed as emergencies (51%) had seen their GP in the same episode of illness, but 40% had not
• GPs felt that one in four patients (24.5%) had experienced an avoidable delay on their pathway
• Many practices undertook quality improvement activities as a result of the audit

*results from the NCDA Scotland 2014 audit, published March 2018

How it will work...
• You can get more information and register for the audit with Information Services Division (ISD), NHS Scotland at NSS.isdnnda@nhs.net
• ISD will regularly provide you with data collection sheets (Excel) for your cancer patients that you can use to capture the data
• You enter information about the pathway for each patient, including: key dates, presenting symptoms, number of consultations, types of investigations, referral(s) and some patient characteristics
• You return the completed data sheets to ISD

We offer...
• analysis of the data
• a confidential, tailored report for your practice and a quality improvement toolkit
• access to support from Cancer Research UK Facilitators and Macmillan GPs (where available) to review and discuss your results and plan quality improvement activity

Information governance and data release requirements will be met.

The practice reports produced were excellent and a valuable tool for discussion at both practice and cluster level. We aim to repeat the audit again for all of our cluster practices. GP from Glasgow

For further information about the audit, visit cruk.org.uk/ncda