

Reference:	FOI.16741.25
Subject:	Stool tests and diagnostic pathways
Date of Request:	4 March 2025

Requested:

Stool Tests:

- 1a. Are quantitative faecal immunochemical tests and
- 1b. Faecal calprotectin tests available in primary care in your area and for what indications?
2. If they are not available, please list the area(s) where faecal calprotectin tests is unavailable.

Diagnostic Pathways:

3. How many diagnostic pathways do you currently have for patients presenting with Lower gastrointestinal symptoms?
4. Please can you list the titles of the pathways
5. Which of these pathways include the usage of faecal calprotectin test?

Response:

- 1a. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that quantitative Faecal Immunochemical Tests (FIT) for bowel and colon cancer are available via requests to secondary care, who currently host the FIT service. However, there are plans to move the FIT service to Primary Care.
- 1b. The UHB confirms that Faecal Calprotectin Tests (FCT) are available within Primary Care, as per the Wales Primary Care Calprotectin Pathway for patients presenting with symptoms of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) or Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) with diagnostic uncertainty.
2. Not applicable.
3. The UHB has two (2) diagnostic referral pathways, Urgent Suspected Cancer (USC) and non-urgent/routine, for patients presenting with Lower Gastrointestinal (LGI) symptoms. The UHB adheres to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) NG12 for USC and high FIT referrals. A link to the guidance has been provided below.

[Overview | Suspected cancer: recognition and referral | Guidance | NICE](#)

4. The UHB provides the titles of the pathways below:
 - Use of FIT in Primary Care
 - Colorectal Pathway in Secondary Care
 - Use of FCP in Primary Care
5. Please see response to question 4.