

NICE (NG12) recommendations for referral of patients with suspected colorectal cancer¹⁹**1.3.1 Refer adults using a suspected cancer pathway referral (for an appointment within 2 weeks) for colorectal cancer if:**

- They are aged 40 and over with unexplained weight loss and abdominal pain or
- They are aged 50 and over with unexplained rectal bleeding or
- They are aged 60 and over with:
 - Iron deficiency anaemia or
 - Changes in their bowel habit, or
- Tests show occult blood in their faeces

1.3.2 Consider a suspected cancer pathway referral (for an appointment within 2 weeks) for colorectal cancer in adults with a rectal or abdominal mass**1.3.3 Consider a suspected cancer pathway referral (for an appointment within 2 weeks) for colorectal cancer in adults aged under 50 with rectal bleeding and any of the following unexplained symptoms or findings:**

- Abdominal pain
- Change in bowel habit
- Weight loss
- Iron deficiency anaemia

1.3.4 Offer testing with quantitative faecal immunochemical tests (see the NICE diagnostics guidance on quantitative faecal immunochemical tests to guide referral for colorectal cancer in primary care) to assess for colorectal cancer in adults without rectal bleeding who:

- Are aged 50 and over with unexplained:
 - Abdominal pain or
 - Weight loss, or
- Are aged under 60 with:
 - Changes in their bowel habit, or
 - Iron-deficiency anaemia, or
- Are aged 60 and over and have anaemia even in the absence of iron deficiency