Table 3

Low-risk symptoms
Rectal bleeding with anal symptoms or with an obvious external visible cause such as prolapsed piles, rectal prolapse and anal fissures
Transient change in bowel habit < 6 weeks, particularly if decreased frequency of defecation and harder stools
Abdominal pain without iron deficiency anaemia or an easily palpable abdominal mass, and not associated with loss of appetite causing weight loss or other higher-risk symptoms