

Table 1

Ovarian cancer symptoms and signs: NICE recommendations

- Refer urgently if physical examination identifies ascites and/or a pelvic or abdominal mass (which is not obviously uterine fibroids)
- Carry out tests in primary care if a woman (especially aged 50 or over) reports having any of the following symptoms on a persistent or frequent basis, (particularly more than 12 times per month):
 - persistent abdominal distension (bloating)
 - feeling full (early satiety) and/or loss of appetite
 - pelvic or abdominal pain
 - increased urinary urgency and/or frequency
- Consider carrying out tests in primary care if a woman reports unexplained weight loss, fatigue or changes in bowel habit
- Advise any woman who is not suspected of having ovarian cancer to return to her GP if her symptoms become more frequent and/or persistent
- Carry out appropriate tests for ovarian cancer in any woman of 50 or over who has experienced symptoms within the past 12 months that suggest irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) because IBS rarely presents for the first time in women of this age