

**Table 1****NICE criteria for urgent referral of suspected lower gastrointestinal cancer<sup>14</sup>**

| Age (years) | Presentation                                                                      |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|             | <b>Refer using a suspected cancer pathway referral for:</b>                       |
| ≥ 40        | Unexplained weight loss and abdominal pain                                        |
| ≥ 50        | Unexplained rectal bleeding                                                       |
| ≥ 60        | Iron-deficiency anaemia or changes in bowel habit                                 |
| Any         | Test shows occult blood in faeces                                                 |
|             | <b>Consider using a suspected cancer pathway referral for:</b>                    |
| Any         | Rectal or abdominal mass                                                          |
| < 50        | Rectal bleeding and any of the following unexplained symptoms:                    |
|             | ● Abdominal pain                                                                  |
|             | ● Change in bowel habits                                                          |
|             | ● Weight loss                                                                     |
|             | ● Iron-deficiency anaemia                                                         |
|             | <b>Offer testing for occult blood in adults without rectal bleeding who have:</b> |
| ≥ 50        | Unexplained abdominal pain<br>Weight loss                                         |
| < 60        | Changes in bowel habit<br>Iron-deficiency anaemia                                 |
| ≥ 60        | Anaemia even if not iron deficient                                                |