

Please could we introduce you to the Non Site Specific Rapid Diagnostic Service (NSS-RDS). SFT are hosting a pilot of this service that will start receiving referrals from the 3 Taunton PCNs at the end of this month. It is hoped that it will be rolled out to the whole of Somerset as quickly as possible. This is a new service which has the intention of quickly diagnosing cancers in patients aged 18 and over who are presenting atypically. Many GP's will have had the frustrating experience of knowing something is seriously wrong with a patient, and they may well have an underlying cancer, but they do not fit any of the 2WW referral pathways. In order to ensure that other, more common, diagnoses have been excluded prior to a referral being made this service will accept these patients after they have had some "filter tests" performed which will be listed on the referral form. The referral should be made once the results of these 'filter tests' have been reviewed in primary care. We will make it easier for clinicians to arrange these tests by putting them in a test group labelled "RDS" on ordercomms. Once the referral is sent through eRS (in the same way as a 2 week wait referral) and is accepted we will then assess the patient and investigate them as efficiently as possible. Following assessment and investigation the NSS RDS team will either refer the patient on to the appropriate speciality, without referring back to their GP, whether that be a cancer pathway or another specialty, or discharge the patient back to the referring GP with a report of findings and any further management advice if no serious illness has been identified.

The NSS-RDS team includes an Oncologist, a GI Surgeon, 2 GP's (Rupert Sells from Taunton, and Jeremy Imms from Yeovil), and 2 Clinical Nurse Specialists. We will involve Radiology and other Specialities as required. Consultations will be remote, as long as this is appropriate for the patient, to reduce the need for patients to travel. The aim is for all investigations to be done during one visit to a hospital site if this is at all possible. We hope that this will be a service valued by GP's and that it will improve cancer care in Somerset.

The service is scheduled to start on 26th July for 3 Taunton PCNs, and referral forms will be accessed via eRS. The NSS-RDS office phone number is 01823 343105, and you are welcome to phone if you have any questions about the service.