

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF CANCER

NICE Cancer Referral Guidelines

BREAST

CANCER REFERRAL

Any Age:
Skin changes suggestive of cancer

≥30y/o
Lump
Axilla
Breast

≥50y/o
As for ≥30y/o

+ Nipple } Retraction
Discharge
Changes of concern

OVARIAN • ENDOMETRIAL

CANCER REFERRAL (Ovarian):
ASCITES
PELVIC MASS
SUSPICIOUS ULTRASOUND SCAN

CANCER REFERRAL (Endometrial):
POST MENOPAUSAL BLEED

CA125+/-USS
(† suspicion ≥50y/o) ≥1 of unexplained:

- URINE - urgency/frequency
- BOWEL habit change
- IBS symptoms

URGENT ULTRASOUND SCAN

≥55y/o
Vaginal Discharge + ≥1 of:
• 1st presentation
• Haematuria
• Thrombocytosis

≥55y/o
Visible Haematuria + ≥1 of:
• ↑ Blood glucose
• Anaemia

MYELOMA

Unexplained Bony Pain/Fracture (especially back pain)

≥60y/o

FBC
Bone Profile
PV/ESR

1 of:
• ↑ PV/ESR
• Leukopenia
• Hypercalcaemia

≥60y/o

• Bence Jones Protein
• Protein Electrophoresis

CANCER REFERRAL (if **ABNORMAL**)

PANCREATIC

CANCER REFERRAL
JAUNDICE
≥40y/o

URGENT ULTRASOUND/CT
WEIGHT LOSS
≥60y/o

+ ≥ 1 of:
• Nausea
• Vomiting
• Back pain
• Abdominal pain
• Diarrhoea/Constipation
• New Onset Diabetes

UPPER GI

DYSPHAGIA

URGENT OGD

OR

WEIGHT LOSS
≥55y/o + ≥ 1 of:
• Reflux
• Dyspepsia
• Upper abdo pain

STOMACH - CANCER REFERRAL

LIVER - URGENT ULTRASOUND/CT

UPPER ABDO MASS or ORGANOMEGALY

LOWER GI

CANCER REFERRAL - One or more of:

- 1** Weight Loss + abdominal pain ≥40y/o
- 2** Change in bowel habit or Iron deficiency anaemia (IRON)
- 3** Rectal Bleeding (≥50y/o or ≤50y/o + 1 of:
• Iron deficiency anaemia
• Change in bowel habit
• Weight loss
• Abdominal pain)
- 4** ABDOMINAL MASS
RECTAL MASS
ANAL MASS
- 5** ULCERATION (Anal)
- 6** POSITIVE FOB or FIT test

HAEMATOLOGY (adults only)

LEUKAEMIA: 48hr FBC:
Unexplained symptoms including:
• Fever
• Fatigue
• Pallor
• Bleeding
• Recurrent infection
• Lymphadenopathy
• Hepatosplenomegaly
• Petechiae
• Bruising

LYMPHOMA: CANCER REFERRAL
Lymphadenopathy
Splenoomegaly

CONSIDER:
• Weight loss
• Pruritus
• Shortness of breath
• Night sweats
• Fever

RENAL & BLADDER

CANCER REFERRAL

≥60y/o
Non-Visible Haematuria + 1 of:
Dysuria
Leucocytosis

≥45y/o
Visible Haematuria
Without infection
Persists/Recurr after UTI treated

LUNG CANCER & MESOTHELIOMA

URGENT CHEST X-RAY:
All advice for patients ≥40 y/o

One or more of:
• Suspicious Chest Signs
• Finger Clubbing
• Adenopathy
• Cervical Supraclavicular
• Thrombocytosis
• Chest Infections (persistent/recurrent)

(Ex) Smokers (or exposed to asbestos) ≥ 1 of:
• Weight Loss
• Fatigue
• Cough
• Shortness of breath
• Chest pain
• Appetite loss

Non Smokers ≥ 2 of:
• Weight Loss
• Fatigue
• Cough
• Shortness of breath
• Chest pain
• Appetite loss

CANCER REFERRAL (if **Haemoptysis ≥40 y/o** or **Abnormal Chest X-Ray***)
*or continued unexplained high risk symptoms but normal chest x-ray