

Faecal Calprotectin test for suspected IBS / IBD

Please note that a third of all Gastroenterology referrals that were rejected by the Prior Approval service were due to the Faecal Calprotectin test having not been completed prior to referral.

Faecal calprotectin testing is recommended by NICE, DG11 (<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/dg11>) as an option to help doctors distinguish between inflammatory bowel diseases, such as Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, and non-inflammatory bowel diseases, such as irritable bowel syndrome.

The Faecal Calprotectin test statistics include:-

- Population prevalence IBD, 6.3%
- Population prevalence of IBS, 10-20%
- Test Sensitivity 93% and Specificity 94%

Details of the new Gastroenterology pathways are available on Map of Medicine, and reference to the Faecal Calprotectin test can be found by searching on Map using "IBS".

Calprotectin is available via ICE and a search for "calprotectin" will lead you to the relevant tick box on ICE. Please include details of any testing on the referral.

Faecal Calprotectin is a substance that is released into the intestines in excess when there is any inflammation there. Its presence can mean a person has an inflammatory bowel disease such as Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis. These conditions can cause very similar symptoms to irritable bowel syndrome. But, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis can also cause symptoms serious enough for major surgery to be needed, so it's important to distinguish between them and irritable bowel syndrome.

Using Faecal Calprotectin testing will mean most people with irritable bowel syndrome will be diagnosed without the need for these investigations and will allow faster pickup of the genuine IBD patients who will have their condition dealt with more quickly in secondary care

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the CCG via Claire Pemberton:

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