

Pancreas Rapid Diagnostic Service: A Work in Progress



East Lancashire Hospitals

A University Teaching Trust

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A Faster Diagnosis Model



Rapid Diagnostic Service



1. Early identification of patients where cancer is possible, including outreach to target existing health inequalities



2. Timely referral based on standardised referral criteria and appropriate filter function tests



3. Broad assessment of symptoms resulting in effective triage, determining whether and which tests should be carried out and in what order, based on individual patient need



4. Coordinated testing which happens in fewer visits and steps for the patient, with a significantly shorter time between referral and reaching a diagnosis



5. Timely diagnosis of patients' symptoms, cancer or otherwise, by a multidisciplinary team where relevant, and communicated appropriately to the patient



6. Appropriate onward referral to the right service for further support, investigation, treatment and/or care

7. Excellent patient coordination and support with patients having a single point of contact throughout their diagnostic journey, alongside access to the right information, support and advice

Pathway Design



ELHT Pancreas RDS

Discrete pancreas RDS

Nurse-Led model

<u>All patients</u>, not only primary care referrals

Right test, right time based on assessment

Ongoing support from point of referral

Challenges



Results and Benefits

Significant and sustained reduction in time to diagnosis

Significant Reduction in inpatient admission days

Significant reduction in consultant led clinic reviews

0% DNA rate (clinic appointment and diagnostics)

Enhanced support

The RDS patient experience

Same day triage and assessment

CT within 24 hours, hot clinic review

Optimise symptoms, nutrition assessment, support patient and family

Surgical review, treatment options discussed and plan for surgical intervention

The ongoing need to improve

GP requested CT but no RDS referral

CT result discussed with patient on Thursday ahead of Easter Weekend

Lack of support or symptom management

Heightened anxiety, worsening of symptoms

RDS making a difference

Single point of contact from the time of referral – Pancreas Specialist Nurse

Ongoing Support

Optimise symptom control, the importance of early nutritional assessment and support

Cross-speciality working: enhanced patient experience

The importance of the team



- Engage colleagues across all sectors and specialities
- Focus on the "why" and the bigger picture
- Determination
- Support system

From "You'll fail" to Westminster!

