



Newsletter

Issue 1
January 2022

Welcome to the first edition of the Clinical Pathways newsletter

The Clinical Pathways workstream forms part of the wider National Endoscopy Programme (NEP)

This newsletter has been produced to share news and progress relating to the Clinical Pathways workstream with colleagues working in Endoscopy services across Wales.

The New Year brings about an opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved this past year despite the challenges faced. There have been notable achievements within the Clinical Pathways work across the health boards. Key headlines are noted below.

Clinical
Pathways



Faecal-Immunochemical Testing (FIT) is a test that can identify signs of bowel disease, which is being implemented at pace across Wales across primary and secondary care.

FIT can enable an increase in colorectal cancer detection in the symptomatic population when used to inform referral for low-risk patients (NICE DG30), but research is also emerging to support the use of FIT as a mitigation and triage tool in some high-risk patients (NICE NG12) in response to waiting list challenges. (This is however only in the setting of robust safety netting as outlined in the FIT framework for Wales). At the end of 2021, four Welsh health boards have rolled out its use across low-risk and high-risk populations. Three have partially implemented and are progressing business cases to roll out fully.

Last year the NEP published the [National Framework for the Implementation of FIT in the Symptomatic Service](#) to guide health boards.

Surveillance colonoscopy is important to many groups of patients who have an increased risk of cancer or a potentially life-threatening condition. The NEP has supported endoscopy services across Wales to implement the updated BSG guidance that informs the need for surveillance post-polypectomy and post-colorectal cancer resection.

These guidelines can be retrospectively and prospectively applied, to reduce pressure on waiting lists. The NEP has also produced a [risk stratification tool](#) for teams to use to assist with the prioritisation of the surveillance list while they deal with the backlog the pandemic has exacerbated.

Colon Capsule endoscopy is an area that the NEP is looking to pilot, to aid in the prioritisation for colonoscopy.



A Colon Capsule - British Society of Gastroenterology 2022

Patients swallow a capsule with 2 tiny cameras inside which take pictures of the lining of the bowel to look for any problems or signs of disease. 10 clinicians across Wales have now started training in colon capsule endoscopy and a working group has been set up to take this forwards.

NEP Update

The national recovery plan for Endoscopy has recently been approved by the Minister of Health and Social Care Services. The plan has been developed to support the delivery of sustainable endoscopy services across Wales.

Who are we?

Clinical Pathways Core Team

Clinical Lead: Dr Sunil Dolwani
Managerial Lead: Dana Knoyle
Senior Project Manager: Naomi Davies
Welcome to Naomi who has recently joined the team.

FIT Learning event planned for Spring 2022 to discuss the latest research and evidence base, the evaluation results from Welsh health boards and more. We will be sending out more information very soon.