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**Clinical Biochemistry
UKAS Accredited**
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Dear Colleague

Faecal Calprotectin testing

We are pleased to inform you that faecal calprotectin (FCP) testing can now be requested directly by primary care as part of a new diagnostic pathway for patients with lower gastrointestinal symptoms suggestive of either Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)/Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS).

The attached guidance summarises the new diagnostic pathway for patients with suspected irritable bowel and a further document provides additional information regarding FCP testing. All this information is now available on rehelp along with additional new material on the management of IBS symptoms.

Please note that this diagnostic pathway is intended for use primarily in patients under the age of 40 years. Local Lothian data would support the use of FCP testing in those aged <50 years but a cut off age of <40 has been chosen to align with NHS Scotland/HIS guidelines.

Previously there had been a requirement for all primary care FCP requests to be authorised by a gastroenterology consultant. This restriction is no longer in place. This is because additional funding for FCP testing has now been made available following a successful pilot of this new diagnostic pathway in some Lothian GP practices in 2015.

It is important to be aware that NSAIDS falsely elevate FCP and that these should be discontinued at least 4 weeks prior to testing. Some minor changes will be made to FCP requesting on ICE consisting of a prompt to try and ensure the appropriate criteria for testing are being met.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

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