



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Cwm Taf Morgannwg
University Health Board



Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_121_25

You asked:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:

Stool Tests:

1. Are a) quantitative faecal immunochemical test and b) faecal calprotectin tests available in primary care in your area and for what indications?
2. If they are not available, please list the area(s) where faecal calprotectin tests is unavailable.

Diagnostic Pathways:

3. How many diagnostic pathways do you currently have for patients presenting with Lower gastrointestinal symptoms?
4. Please can you list the titles of the pathways?
5. Which of these pathways include the usage of faecal calprotectin test?

Our response:

Stool tests:

Stool tests for quantitative faecal immunochemical test and faecal calprotectin are provided by the local Clinical Biochemistry Service for primary care.

Please note that there is currently a service level agreement between Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTM UHB) and Swansea Bay University Health Board (SB UHB) for the provision of Clinical Biochemistry services, which will include faecal calprotectin analysis, for primary care requests, for the Bridgend population. Therefore, you may wish to redirect some elements of this request to Swansea Bay UHB to ascertain whether they provide faecal calprotectin service for this population.

However, a quantitative faecal immunochemical testing was established at Prince Charles Hospital- Clinical Biochemistry Service, after the merger of CTM UHB and Bridgend areas. Therefore, when this service was established it included open access to the primary care population of Bridgend. As such, the CTM UHB Clinical Biochemistry Service provides symptomatic quantitative faecal immunochemical testing service for the Bridgend primary (and secondary) care population.

Diagnostic Pathways:

In terms of pathology related investigative pathways for lower GI symptoms, and the use of faecal calprotectin, there are adult and paediatric pathways for the investigation of possible inflammatory bowel disease, developed principally for Primary care.

- i) Algorithm for Faecal Calprotectin in Adults
- ii) Algorithm for Faecal Calprotectin in Paediatrics

These have recently been updated following the publication of the document below.

- iii) Faecal calprotectin use in primary care in Wales 2023.

There is also an investigative pathway for symptomatic quantitative faecal immunochemical testing for primary and secondary care in place, developed in line with the national clinical guidelines:

Use of Faecal Immunological Testing (FIT) in Patients with Signs or Symptoms Raising Suspicion of Colorectal Cancer (CRC): A Joint Guideline from The Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain & Ireland (ACPGBI) and the British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG) 2022.

- i) CTM Primary Care FIT Pathway May 2023