

1st January, 2018

Medical Directorate
NHS England
Zone B, Sixth Floor
Skipton House
80 London Road
London SE1 6LH

Dear Colleagues

I am pleased to enclose the new clinical pathway advice produced by the Colorectal Cancer Clinical Expert Group of the national cancer programme. Its purpose is to inform and support decision making by cancer alliances in relation to services and clinical pathways for bowel cancer.

The Achieving world-class cancer outcomes: a strategy for England 2015-2020 set out the ambition to improve cancer survival rates and patient outcomes to deliver the vision set by the NHS Five Year Forward View. The recommendations address the whole cancer pathway from prevention, early diagnosis, treatment and care, to living with and beyond cancer.

Cancer Clinical Expert Groups (CEGs) bring together tumour specific clinical expertise nationally and their role includes ensuring that advice on cancer pathways is available for cancer alliances, commissioners, providers and anyone else involved in the improvement of cancer services.

This clinical quality standard document has been approved by the National Cancer Clinical Steering Group (CGS), which I chair, and is a cross-cutting advisory group to support the work of the cancer alliances and the National Cancer Programme. The CSG brings the chairs of the CEGs together to support clinical improvement and excellence.

Recommendations produced by CEGs support pathway redesign and are in line with the vision of the Cancer strategy. This document fits into a wider programme of work and will support the development of a best practice timed clinical pathway for colorectal cancer (with implementation guidance). This document will be refreshed as evidence is reviewed and agreed should change clinical quality standards e.g. evidence on the use of FIT.

Documents produced by CEGs complement existing resources for commissioners such as NICE Guidelines. They should therefore be read alongside such guidance when arriving at commissioning decisions which make the best use of the resources available.

Yours faithfully



Professor Chris Harrison
Medical Director (Strategy), The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester
National Clinical Director for Cancer, NHS England
Hon Clinical Professor, Manchester Academic Health Sciences Centre
Adjunct Professor, Imperial College London

E: Christopher.harrison@christie.nhs.uk

I am based at and contactable through The Christie as follows:

E: sue.carragher@christie.nhs.uk

P: Trust HQ, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, Wilmslow Road, Manchester, M20 4BX

T: 0161 446 3701