

Making and processing a referral using eC: Once a referral has been made in PC, it appears on-line and a hepatology secretary logs the referral, opening the episode of care and informs the designated hepatologist that a referral has been received. The eC takes approximately 15 min of consultant time to complete but varies depending on case complexity. Once completed, the hepatologist informs the secretary and they log a 'completed episode of care' ensuring the trust is paid for the clinical encounter. Referrals are audited on a 6 monthly basis.

Results Between March 2012 – Oct 2013, 81 eC were completed (12 in months 1–6, 16 in months 7–12, 40 in months 13–18, 13 in months 19–20). A SC appointment was avoided in 78% of patients (n = 63) resulting in a cost saving to PC of £16,443 [63 x eC (£23) = 1,449 vs 63 x new patient referrals (£181) = £11,403 + 1x follow up/patient (£103) = £6489]. Median response time for eC was 2 days, 43% were completed within the same working day.

Conclusion Hepatology eC is beneficial for patient care, with specialist advice being provided within one working day in a substantial number of cases, and is clearly cost effective, making eC popular with PC. However, until a more slim-line IT system is developed reducing the number of steps involved in completing an eC, and the cost per eC increased, it appears to be beneficial for all parties except SC.

Disclosure of Interest None Declared.

PTH-068 REDUCING THE OUTPATIENT BURDEN OF 2 WEEK WAIT UPPER GI REFERRALS

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Introduction The two week wait (2WW) referral leads to significant burden on outpatient clinics. This delays appointments for patients that may not fit the 2WW criteria. Only 5% of patients referred as 2WW will have an upper GI malignancy and it may not be necessary for all these patients to be reviewed urgently in clinic. Previously at our hospital, most upper GI 2WW referrals were booked an OGD (performed by any available endoscopist) in addition to a clinic appointment on receipt of the referral. In order to streamline the service, in January 2013 patients were triaged to either an OGD or a clinic appointment. The index OGD's are now done on consultant's list (Gastroenterologist and Upper GI Surgeon) with a clinical assessment at their OGD appointment. Further management is protocol based and dependant upon the assessment and OGD findings. The aim of this study was to determine if this change in practice is effective and safe.

Methods Patients referred as a 2WW in January and February 2012 were compared to those referred in January, February, August and September 2013. Only patients triaged directly to OGD were included (77/143 (54%) in 2012 and 180/291 (62%) in 2013). 14 patients were excluded from further analysis due to non-attendance.

Results Total cancer detection for all referrals was 8% in 2012 and 9% in 2013. In patients selected for a direct OGD referral, 7 upper GI cancers were diagnosed in 2012 and 14 in 2013. After the OGD, 4 (5%) patients in 2012 were immediately discharged back to the GP, compared to 33 (20%) in 2013 (p = 0.003). Of those attending clinic post OGD, 9 patients (13%) were given a routine appointment in 2012 compared to 50 (37%) in 2013 (p = 0.0002). Comparing the two years, there

was a 32% reduction in the requirement of urgent outpatient appointments (83% had urgent OPD in 2012 compared to 51% in 2013, p = 0.0001). Of those discharged in 2013, 85% had documentation of the current symptoms at time of OGD and in 94%, treatment advice was provided to the GP. One patient was discharged after an OGD showing grade B oesophagitis and symptom improvement with PPI. Unfortunately, a re-referral 8 weeks later for worsening symptoms found oesophageal cancer on OGD.

Conclusion The introduction of consultant assessment as a first contact for all OGD 2WW referrals has led to a significant reduction in the requirement of urgent outpatient clinic appointments by one third. Waiting times for all clinic referrals have reduced significantly, amounting to 54% reduction in the number of patients waiting more than 9 weeks for a first appointment. Cancer detection is comparable to the previous model of care. Patients with ongoing symptoms at the time of endoscopy need follow up. In hindsight the missed cancer should have had an oesophageal biopsy, but this is clinical judgement and we do not believe the new service accounted for this delay.

Disclosure of Interest None Declared.

PTH-069 NURSE TELEPHONE TRIAGED STRAIGHT TO TEST COLONOSCOPY

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Introduction In 2011 patients referred with suspected colorectal cancer at our institution waited a median of 36 days (IQR 28–46) for a treatment plan. This resulted in 61% of colorectal cancerstaging over 31 days to reach a decision to treat. We aimed to reduce the time spent in the diagnostic phase, which was perceived to be the main hold up in the fast track pathway.

Methods A quality improvement approach was employed to change the new pathway from the existing clinic-first service to a straight-to-test service. The new nurse-led telephone triage service confirmed symptoms and assessed fitness for colonoscopy, with higher-risk patients defaulting to flexible sigmoidoscopy or clinic. Results for the first year of the new service are presented.

Results 438 patients were referred between 1/10/2012 and 1/10/2013. 222 (50%) went straight to colonoscopy and 136 (31%) to flexible sigmoidoscopy, 46 (11%) went to clinic, 32 (7%) patients did not attend and data was missing for 2 (1%) patients. Final diagnoses are shown in the attached figure. Colorectal cancer was found in 14/358 patients (4%). Median time from receipt of referral to first endoscopy was 13 days (IQR 11–20), with 128/348 patients (29%) waiting more than 14 days. Median time to decision to treat colorectal cancer was 25 days (IQR 20–34) in straight to test patients, a significant reduction compared to 2010–2011 (p = 0.01), with 5/14 (36%) waiting more than 31 days. Median time to first oncological treatment was 40 days (IQR 28–44), with 1/14 (7%) waiting more than 62 days. 41/66 (62%) of patients with a normal colonoscopy were discharged directly from endoscopy back to their GP.

Conclusion The new straight to test service was applicable to the majority of new colorectal fast track patients and a high patient uptake was observed. Colorectal cancer was in fact uncommon, which is being fed back to those referring into the