

Pan-London Suspected Haematological Cancer Referral Guide

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Criteria for offering diagnostics

Myeloma

Offer **urgent (within 48 hours) protein electrophoresis, Bence-Jones protein urine test, full blood count, renal, calcium and erythrocyte sedimentation rate** in people aged 40 and over with any of the following:

- **Unexplained** persistent bone pain extreme tenderness or aching in one or more bones that persists beyond six weeks.
- Back pain associated with red flags symptoms ([see box next page](#))
- **Unexplained** fracture or pathological fracture (osteoporosis or trauma ruled out) e.g. that has occurred after routine activities
- Aged 40 and over with: hypercalcaemia, leukopenia and a clinical presentation that is consistent with possible myeloma
- Unexplained anaemia and/or raised plasma viscosity/erythrocyte sedimentation rate and symptoms consistent with possible myeloma

Leukaemia

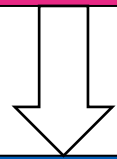
Offer **very urgent full blood count** (to be performed within **48 hours**).

- Adults with any **unexplained** red flag symptoms ([see box next page](#))

Lymphoma

Emergency presentations

Abnormal blood count/film suggesting acute leukaemia,
Spinal cord compression from a possible malignancy,
Renal failure suspicious of myeloma and Children or Young People with unexplained **hepatosplenomegaly, lymphadenopathy, or petechiae**



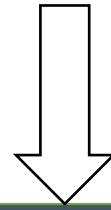
These are emergencies and require a same day referral

Referral Criteria

- Monoclonal paraprotein band on serum electrophoresis: IgM and IgA > 10 g/L; IgG > 15 g/L
- Raised serum free light chains with abnormal ratio >7 or <0.1
- Urine Bence-Jones proteins suggestive of myeloma
- Paraprotein of any level in the presence of one or more of the following: Unexplained hypercalcaemia or renal impairment, anaemia/cytopenia, bone pain or radiology suggestive of myeloma

- **Highly** abnormal full blood count/ blood film ([see next page](#))

- Adults presenting with **palpable** lymphadenopathy or splenomegaly.
- Lymphadenopathy which persists for 6 weeks or more or where lymph nodes are 2cm or larger OR are increasing in size.
- Associated symptoms include: fever, night sweats, shortness of breath, Pruritus, weight loss



SUSPECTED HAEMATOLOGICAL CANCER REFERRAL

Non-Specific Symptoms

If no specific criteria are met, consider seeking Advice and Guidance from a specialist before referring urgently or consider referring patients who do not meet specific criteria to your local Rapid Diagnostic Service

Myeloma Red Flag Symptoms:

- Previous history malignancy
- Age >40 with new onset back pain
- Weight loss
- Previous longstanding steroid use
- Recent serious illness
- Recent significant infection
- Saddle anaesthesia
- Reduced anal tone
- Hip or knee weakness
- Generalised neurological deficit
- Progressive spinal deformity
- Lytic lesions on x-ray
- Non-mechanical pain (worse at rest)
- Thoracic pain
- Fever/ rigors
- General malaise
- Urinary retention
- Leg weakness
- Limb numbness
- Ataxia
- Bilateral leg pain
- Perianal sensory loss
- Erectile dysfunction

Leukaemia Red Flag Symptoms:

Adults with any of the following:

- Pallor
- Persistent fatigue
- **Unexplained** fever
- **Unexplained** persistent or recurrent infection
- Generalised lymphadenopathy
- **Unexplained** bruising
- **Unexplained** bleeding
- **Unexplained** petechiae
- Hepatosplenomegaly

LEUKAEMIA

Highly abnormal full blood count result

Leucoerythroblastic blood picture (from blood film report)

Out of range blood counts in more than 1 line (red cell, white cell and platelets)

Isolated neutrophil count <0.5 repeated after 1 week

Isolated WBC greater than 50

Isolated Platelet count <50

Isolated Platelet count >1000

Platelet count >600 with recent thrombus or bleed

RESOURCES

1. NICE Guideline: Suspected cancer: recognition and referral, NG12 (Feb 2021) <https://cks.nice.org.uk/topics/haematological-cancers-recognition-referral/>
2. NICE Guideline: Myeloma: Diagnosis and management NG35 (2016) <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng35/chapter/Recommendations#laboratory-investigations>