



Colorectal Family History Assessment Clinic



Introduction

The colorectal family history clinic offers advice & ongoing support, assessment and coordination of screening for patients who suspect they have a family history of colorectal cancer. Patients are referred from a number of sources including their GP's, Macmillan Nurses or hospital consultants. Patients may have received a diagnosis of cancer or will have a close relative who has received a diagnosis.

What Do We Do?

After taking a family history from the patient, usually via a postal questionnaire, a telephone consultation is then offered. An assessment of the patient's risk is made and explained to the patient, appropriate national guidance is followed. For example, colonoscopy screening is organised, referral to Regional Genetics Centre for testing (dependant on patient/GP postcode this is Guys & St Thomas's Hospital or St George's Hospital and occasionally St Mark's Hospital). On-going emotional and psychological support is offered. Dr Susi Green is the Lead Consultant for the Colorectal Family History clinic, Kirsteen Daly is the Colorectal Family History Nurse Specialist.

Working autonomously the aim of the CNS is to provide a holistic approach in the management of this patient group. Supporting the patient and their family from the time of referral onwards in what can be a timely process. The CNS is responsible for co-ordinating the patients' pathway. This involves timely information and explanations, as well as emotional and psychological support. The complex needs of patients referred to the service require continued intervention.

Working alongside the multidisciplinary team, acting as the patient's advocate. Key relationships with members of the team including Oncology and site specific Macmillan Nurses are essential. Input from the Regional Genetics Centres is vital, including ensuring any recent developments in the fast moving world of genetics are incorporated into patients care as promptly as possible

Referral guidance and Contacts for this clinic:

- ❖ Patient asymptomatic (symptomatic patients should be referred to a gastroenterologist for assessment of symptoms first)
- ❖ Any concern about colorectal or a related cancer family history/family history of polyps

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