

## Calprotectin Testing at St Georges

To all Wandsworth General Practices

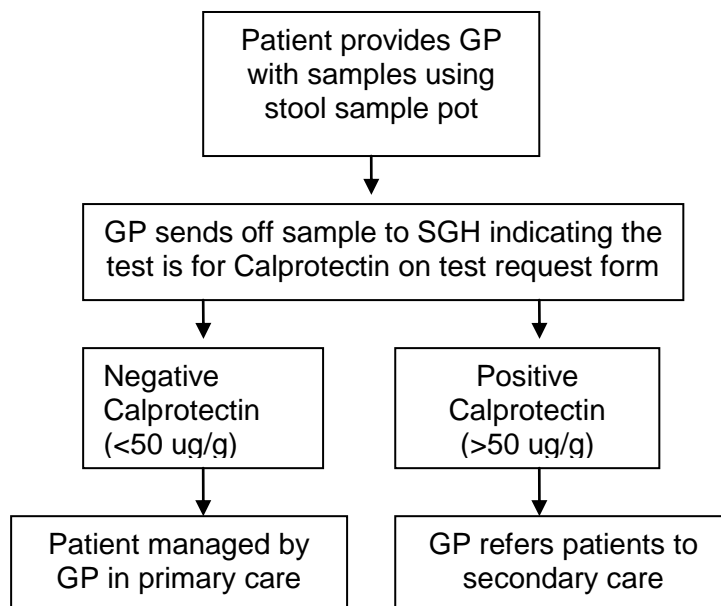
Calprotectin is recommended in aiding clinicians in ruling out inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) in order to diagnose irritable bowel syndrome (IBS). In October 2013 NICE published 'Faecal calprotectin diagnostic tests for inflammatory diseases of the bowel guidance' which can be accessed via the following link:

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/DG11/Guidance/pdf/English>

Previously, there was a need for GPs to refer patients with abdominal and bowel symptoms to secondary care where the calprotectin test is carried out as part of an outpatient appointment. Currently approximately 60% of patients referred are discharged with no follow up, indicating that a serious diagnosis has been excluded.

Calprotectin testing is now offered by St George's Hospital. St Georges currently also undertakes calprotectin testing on behalf of Kingston Hospital, therefore practices that usually send tests to Kingston Hospital can request calprotectin testing in the process set out below but through Kingston Hospital and the results will come back to the practice through Kingston Hospital.

If you would like access this service which is offered by St George's Hospital please follow the process set out below.



For one year St Georges will be tracking what happens to each patient following calprotectin testing which will help us to understand the impact of the service. We will therefore not be using Read coding to monitor the service during this period but may write to you again if this requirement changes in the future.