

Faster Diagnosis Standard FAQ

Top Tips

1. **Explain to your patient why you are referring them and provide them with the suspected cancer patient information leaflet**
2. **To avoid any delays for your patient, populate the pan London suspected cancer referral forms, ensuring all fields are complete and all required tests have been ordered**
3. **Add the patient to your safety netting system, especially if the patient is going on holiday**

1. What is the Faster Diagnosis Standard?

The faster diagnosis standard is being introduced to ensure that patients find out within 28 days of referral whether they have cancer or not. This has been developed to minimise the worrying wait patients face following an urgent suspected cancer referral. It will require primary and secondary care to work together to successfully deliver this standard.

2. When does the FDS launch?

Trusts in London are currently collecting data on their performance. It will be implemented as a standard from April 2020.

3. What does the FDS mean for patients?

It means that patients will be told whether or not they have cancer by day 28. More patients will be triaged into straight to test pathways, hence it is important for the referral form to be fully complete and accurate. Increasingly, patients will be seen within a week of referral.

4. What does the FDS mean for you?

The hospital will confirm to the practice whether your patient has been diagnosed with cancer OR not.

To avoid delays, the Pan London Suspected Cancer Referral Form should be fully completed, in particular:

- Accurate contact details
- All necessary test results
- Specific communication needs e.g. language or sensory issues
- Suitability for straight to test (NB WHO performance status)
- Specific obstacles to attending clinic e.g. transport, high levels of anxiety or low mood

Please check if patients are planning on going on holiday or will for other reasons not be able to attend an urgent appointment. If appropriate, these patients can be referred when they return from holiday. Please consider adding these patients to your safety netting system to ensure this is done.

Patients should be given the pan London patient information leaflet on FDS, available via the pan London referral forms or the healthy London partnership website <https://www.healthylondon.org/suspected-cancer-referrals/patient-information-leaflets/>

We will achieve the faster diagnosis standard if we work together as a system.