

NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS Rotherham CCG)

Primary Care Committee – 14 April 2021

C the Signs

Lead Executive:	Ian Atkinson, Executive Place Director, RCCG
Lead Officer:	Janet Sinclair-Pinder, Senior Care Pathways Manager
Lead GP:	Dr Jason Page, SCE GP

Purpose:

To outline the C the Signs clinical decision support tool for Primary Care.

Background:

Following a 10 week procurement process, the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw ICS Cancer Alliance has confirmed that C the Signs has been the successful bidder for the provision of a clinical decision support tool for Cancer

C the Signs which uses artificial intelligence mapped with the latest evidence, to help GPs identify patients at risk of cancer at the earliest and most survivable stage of the disease.

GPs can use the tool to search by system (e.g. 'chest' or 'gastro') or search by symptom, sign, risk factor or investigation result (e.g. 'appetite loss' or 'thrombocytosis'). The GP then simply ticks off the risk factors, symptoms, signs or investigation results and is presented with which cancer(s) the patient is at risk of and which test, investigation or referral they should make. All recommendations are based on national guidance (NICE NG12 Guidelines) and any local guidelines which may apply. The pathways are then localised to the commissioned services in each respective CCG.

When a GP uses the tool to risk assess a patient, at the point where they are presented with the recommendations, they then can select which recommendations they choose to action. Should any of these recommendations be a 2-week-wait cancer referral pathway, the GP will then be presented with the appropriate 2-week-wait cancer form for their CCG which will then pre-populate with the clinical information. All referral forms sent to secondary care are required to have the patient's past medical history, drug history, allergies, and previous tests and investigations the patient has had. The referral form will be stored in the patient's clinical record, in addition to any other recommendations that the GP has selected to save.

Upon saving the entry in the clinical record, the patient will also be added to a Practice specific Cancer Dashboard. The dashboard serves to create a safety netting facility to protect patients from being lost to follow-up, ensuring patients receive their appointment details, and to act on any abnormal or normal tests or investigations that may require further actions to rule out cancer.

Within the next 12 months, C the Signs will be providing additional functionality to users:

- Patients will be risk assessed in real time and clinicians will be prompted to risk assess the patient if a risk of cancer is identified.
- Patients will be extracted from the practice who have a cancer diagnosis or are on a cancer pathway to pre-populate the practice dashboard for safety netting.

- Results of tests will be automatically pulled from the patient records to pre-populate the practice dashboard as well as facilitate stratified follow-up for cancer monitoring (e.g. PSA monitoring in prostate cancer)
- Patients will be identified for screening programmes to facilitate automatic invitation and safety-netting in the practice (e.g. cervical screening).

Further information is available from josh.weaver@nhs.net

Analysis of key issues and of risks

Use of the tool will ensure the development of more consistent referral practice and data to track and improve cancer outcomes, supporting delivery of the Quality Outcome Framework (QOF) and the Directed Enhanced Services (DES) specification cancer requirements.

You can learn more about [C The Signs in this introductory document](#) which explains how the tool supports delivery of the DES and QOF specifications and also features demonstration videos of the platform with EMIS, and SystemOne.

The tool will be pivotal in aiding the phase three recovery for appropriate cancer pathway referrals, support risk stratification, and reduce unwarranted referral practice in primary care.

Whilst C the Signs is not mandatory, we would encourage GP Practices to utilise this useful tool.

Patient, Public and Stakeholder Involvement:

N/A

Equality Impact:

N/A

Financial Implications:

N/A

Human Resource Implications:

N/A

Procurement Advice:

The Procurement process was undertaken by the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw ICS Cancer Alliance led by Josh Weaver.

Data Protection Impact Assessment:

A DPIA has been undertaken by the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw ICS Cancer Alliance. The DPIA has been sent to the Rotherham IG Group and has been approved.

GP Practices will be required to sign a Data Protection Agreement (DPA).

Approval history:

Clinical Management Referrals Committee (CRMC) – 3 March 2021

Local Medical Committee (LMC) – 22 March 2021

GP Medical Committee (GPMC) – 31 March 2021

Recommendations:

GPMC are asked:

- To note the C the Signs clinical decision tool for Primary Care.
- To note that each Practice is required to sign a DPA
- To note the agreed implementation date of the 10 May 2021.

Paper is for information.