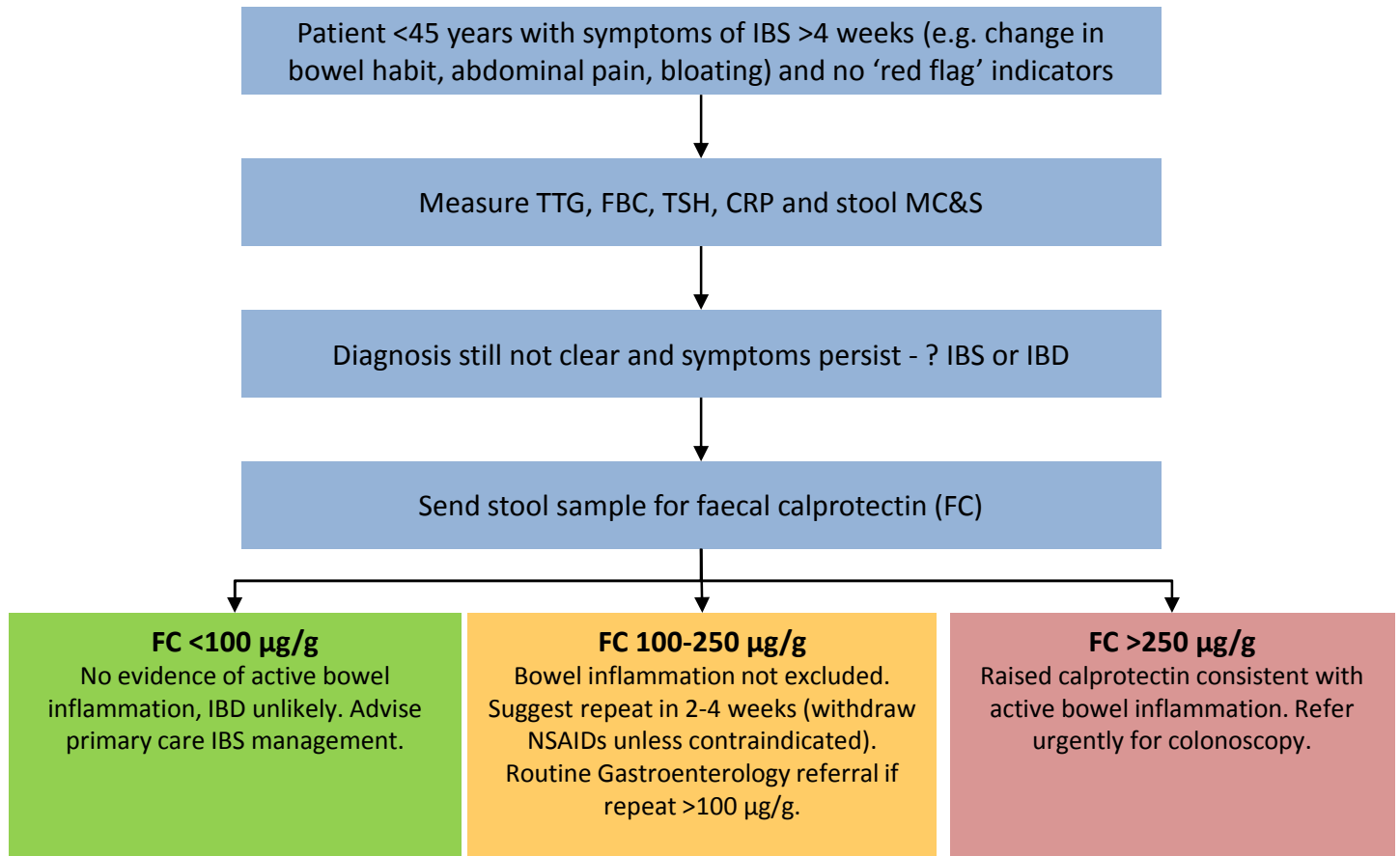


Faecal Calprotectin – Primary Care Guideline



FAECAL CALPROTECTIN

- Calprotectin is a protein secreted by neutrophils; increased levels may be released into faeces during GI inflammation
- Measurement can help distinguish inflammatory and non-inflammatory GI conditions
- In most cases a negative result (<100ug/g) excludes IBD
- Results of >250ug/g indicate high likelihood of IBD. Refer patient for straight-to-test colonoscopy.
- Use clinical judgement if results borderline; if in doubt seek advice

WHEN NOT TO REQUEST FAECAL CALPROTECTIN

- Age >45 years
- Suspected cancer; refer to NICE NG12
- Red flag symptoms present (e.g. PR bleeding, anaemia, weight loss)
- Currently taking NSAIDs (withdraw for two weeks unless contraindicated)
- Menstrual bleeding (avoid collecting sample at this time)
- Known infectious diarrhoea

SAMPLE REQUIREMENTS

- At least a pea size amount of faeces
- Collect into plain universal container
- Avoid contamination of sample (e.g. with water, urine)
- Sample must reach the laboratory within 48 hours of collection
- Sample must be **fully labelled** and **accompanied with a request form**

ADVICE

For general enquiries please contact the Blood Sciences Help Desk on **01782 674224** (Mon-Fri 9:00 – 17:00).

For advice regarding specific technical and clinical aspects of this test, please contact the Duty Biochemist on **01782 674265** (Mon-Fri 9:00 – 19:00).