

# GASTROENTEROLOGY

## National Clinical Priority Access Criteria for Colonoscopy (CPAC)

**Category Definitions :** These are recommended guidelines for HHS specialists prioritizing referrals from primary care.

Emergency	- AH	- <i>after hours</i>
	- NL	- <i>next list</i>
Elective	- A	- <i>within 2 weeks</i>
	- A/B	- <i>between 2 to 4 weeks</i>
	- B	- <i>between 4 to 8 weeks</i>
	- C	- <i>after 8 weeks</i>
	- N/I	- <i>not indic.</i>

Immediate and Urgent cases must be discussed with the Specialist or Registrar in order to get appropriate prioritisation and then a referral letter sent with the patient, faxed or e-mailed. The times to assessment may vary depending on size and staffing of the hospital department.

Indication	Priority						
	Emergency		Elective				
	AH	NL	A	A/B	B	C	N/I
<b>Acute lower gastrointestinal haemorrhage</b>							
Continuous / unstable / > 4 units of blood	●	●					
stable / requiring blood transfusion		●					
stable / not requiring blood transfusion		○	●				
- All emergency colonoscopies should be performed after bowel preparation with colonic lavage given by nasogastric tube.							
<b>Chronic rectal bleeding</b>							
Altered bowel habit / 'alarm' symptoms			○	●			
Altered bowel habit / NO 'alarm' symptoms					●		
NO change in bowel habit or 'alarm' symptoms						●	
- Exclude ano – rectal cause - 'Alarm' symptoms: weight loss, severe pain, anaemia							
<b>Iron deficient anaemia (No leading GI symptoms)</b>				○	●		
<b>Diarrhoea / Suspected I B D</b>							
Diagnostic				○	●	○	
Extent					○	●	
<b>Abnormal Barium enema</b>							
Suspected cancer / large polyp > 2cm			●	○			
Suspected polyp < 2cm					●	○	
<b>Change in bowel habit</b>							
With 'alarm' symptoms				●			
Without 'alarm' symptoms / recent onset					●	○	
Pseudo obstruction	●						
Longstanding / suspected IBS or constipation						○	●
- Pseudo obstruction: consider colonoscopy when perforation imminent. - Barium enema may be suitable alternative in some of these situations.							
<b>Surveillance</b>							
Personal history of colon polyp or cancer						●	
Family history of colon cancer						●	
Ulcerative colitis						●	
- According to local / national guidelines							

● - Preferred priority for investigation

○ - Alternative priority for investigation