

Supporting Early Diagnosis of Cancer (Community Pharmacy) Pilot

Supporting Guidance of when to refer to the Pharmacist

In line with the clinical protocol for the Supporting Early Diagnosis of Cancer (Community Pharmacy) Pilot, please refer adults regularly requesting the following over-the-counter (OTC) medicines and/or symptoms to the Pharmacist who might decide that they could be suitable to enter the pilot.

Regular or increasing repeat purchases/use of:
Antacid preparations for reflux / indigestion
Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs) – e.g. Lansoprazole, Omeprazole, Pantoprazole, Rabeprazole
Histamine 2 receptor antagonists (H2 blockers) - e.g. Cimetidine, Famotidine, Nizatidine
Haemorrhoid medicine without a diagnosis
Medicines indicative of a change in bowel habit such as loperamide or other medicines to manage diarrhoea
Medicines to manage diarrhoea/other IBS symptoms
Medicines or products to manage post-menopausal bleeding
Throat lozenges or medicine
Mouth ulcer medication
Medication to treat skin complaints, with no skin condition present
Analgesic medications for persistent pain
Cough Medicines

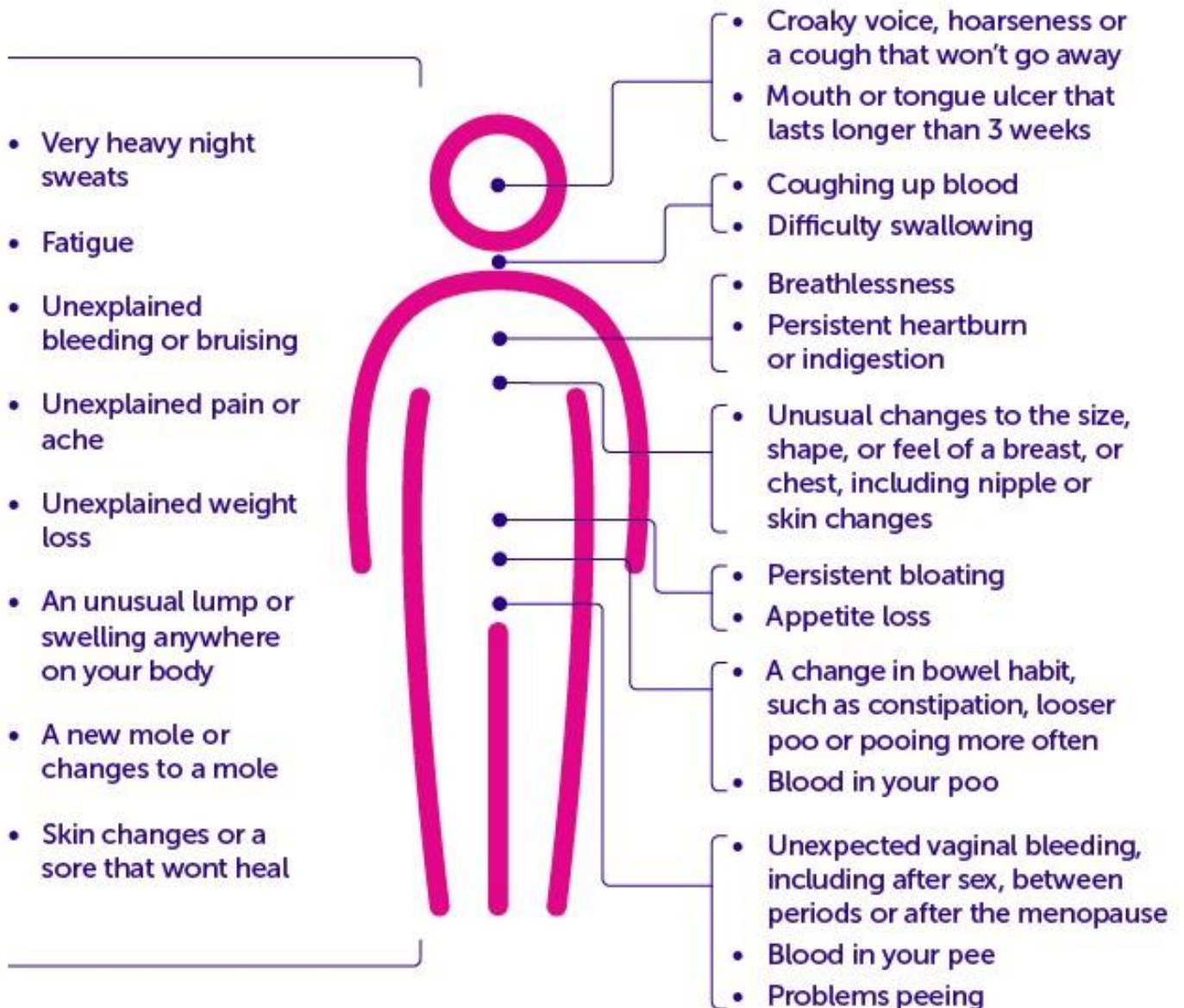
Women with any of the following symptoms:
Post-menopausal bleeding (unexplained vaginal bleeding) more than 12 months after menstruation has stopped
Feeling full and/or loss of appetite
Increased urinary urgency and/or frequency.
Persistent bloating – happening several times a month
Pelvic or abdominal pain
Symptoms within the last 12 months that suggest irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)

Adults with any of the following symptoms:
Unexplained coughing up blood
Persistent or recurrent chest infection
Persistent cough
Shortness of breath
Chest pain
Appetite loss or weight loss
Finger clubbing
Blood in urine
Jaundice
Trouble swallowing
Persistent reflux/indigestion
Upper abdominal pain
Blood in stool
Change in bowel habit
Unexplained bleeding or bruising
Unexplained petechiae (clustered small purple, red, or brown spots on the skin)
Persistent back or bone pain
A lump in the neck, groin or armpit – lasting 6 weeks or more
Mouth ulcers lasting 3 weeks or more, or that do not heal
A lump in the lip or mouth lasting 3 weeks or more
Bleeding or numbness in the mouth
Red or white patches in the mouth
Unexplained hoarse voice, lasting 3 weeks or more
Breast changes
Unexplained breast lump
Nipple retraction or discharge
New suspicious pigmented skin lesion/mole with change in size or sensation, irregular shape/colour, oozing or inflammation

Supporting Early Diagnosis of Cancer (Community Pharmacy) Pilot

Supporting Guidance of when to refer to the Pharmacist

The diagram below from Cancer Research UK¹ shows some of the key signs and symptoms of cancer:



¹Cancer Research UK (2022, November 17). *Key signs and symptoms of cancer diagram*. Retrieved August 14, 2023, from <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/cancer-symptoms>