

# Study Summary

## Cost-effective commissioning of colorectal cancer care: an assessment of the cost-effectiveness of improving early diagnosis

A national guideline and literature review.

Public Health England. 2016; 2016359.

Available online: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/612370/cost-effectiveness-early-diagnosis-colorectal-cancer.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/612370/cost-effectiveness-early-diagnosis-colorectal-cancer.pdf)

### Conclusion

Early diagnosis within the colorectal cancer pathway can lead to better clinical outcomes and improved cost-effectiveness as measured by indicators such as 5-year patient survival rate

### Study Aim

To identify opportunities for improvement of the colorectal cancer (CRC) care pathway and determine how these can be implemented cost-effectively.



### Methods

The report was written as part of a wider policy and research discussion on how to deliver cost-effective cancer care and included a summary of a return on investment tool. The report evaluates the diagnosis and staging, and treatment phases of the CRC care pathway, including:

- A description of what cost-effective practice is
- An analysis of cost-effective practice adherence
- Methods to make care more cost-effective
- Incentives for providers to make care more cost-effective



A report by the UK Independent Cancer Taskforce, which includes 96 recommendations on how to improve cancer care, contributed to this report



## Results

### Diagnosis and staging

#### Survival rates are significantly higher when diagnosis is earlier

Patients diagnosed through screening and elective routes have higher survival rates compared with those diagnosed through emergency presentations, which typically implies a later stage of disease at detection:

##### 5-year patient survival rate for CRC



### Treatment

Cost of care is much lower for patients diagnosed earlier within the CRC pathway:



▼ £9,647

in overall costs between stage I and IV

▼ £5,400

in treatment costs between stage I and IV

Early detection of CRC increases the likelihood of cure through surgery alone and reduces the need for expensive and sometimes debilitating chemotherapy. It is estimated that:



70–80%

of patients are treated surgically and cured of CRC

20–30%

of patients require chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy



Laparoscopic resection is more **cost-effective** than open surgery because it **reduces hospital stay**



An enhanced CRC recovery programme could reduce length of hospital stay by

▼ 0.5–3.5 days