**Introduction to the Rapid Diagnosis Centres (RDC)**

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**Dr Heather Wilkes, GP and National RDC Clinical Lead Swansea Bay UHB and Wales Cancer Network.**

0:01 **Speaker**: You may or may not have heard of the rapid diagnosis clinics that are being set up across Wales and wider. But I'd like to introduce you to the rapid diagnosis clinics, explain what they do and why we've got a number of educational events related to the sort of issues that are commonly seen within the rapid diagnosis centres.

0:28 **Speaker**: I am a GP and many of you will know that patients come in with quite vague, non-specific symptoms. Sometimes it's quite easy to sort out what's going on. Sometimes it's very difficult. But what you know is that there potentially is something serious/sinister and may even be a cancer diagnosis that you're not quite able to put your finger on and refer to the appropriate specialist.

0:57 **Speaker**: Traditionally, these patients have done quite badly because it can take a number of different appointments and scans to sort out what's going on. And so we developed the rapid diagnosis clinics within Wales for patients where their primary care team feels there is likely to be a cancer diagnosis, but they're unable to ascertain the likely site of that cancer. The first clinic was set up in Cwm Taf and Swansea Bay in 2017. By the end of this year, 2022, we should have RDC clinics accepting patients in all parts of Wales.

1:39 **Speaker**: These clinics are not meant to replace the site specific cancer clinics. If you feel that the patient has a specific cancer, then direct referral to that speciality is the best thing for the patients. But these are clinics where a GP can refer, having seen and examined the patient and have ordered a set of blood tests Set A which is quite a comprehensive, wide ranging set. The details for the referral guidelines and the blood tests that you need to request on point of referral will be available from your local health board. The patients are then triaged by a telephone call and are seen within the RDC clinics within seven days. They may have a CT scan to be seen a few days later or have a CT scan at the first clinic. What then happens is that the results are given to them after the assessment with a clinician and their CNS and a plan is made. So patients have a potential diagnosis and an explanation of their symptoms and a plan of action generally within seven days of seeing their GP. These clinics, as I say in Wales, have been running for a number of years and the positive response from clinicians and patients alike is quite overwhelming.

3:11 **Speaker**: These patients have a number of different end diagnosis. And so to help support GPs, other primary care staff and clinicians working within an RDC, we have put together a series of webinars to look in more detail at the difficulties of initial assessment of these patients with vague symptoms. The webinars that we are starting with include rheumatology, gastroenterology and hepatobiliary medicine, neurology, haematology, medically unexplained symptoms, infectious diseases and respiratory medicine. These will all be occurring within 2022 and will be available for future reference.

Thank you.