

Appendix A: The Department of Health higher risk criteria ('TWR guideline') (Department of Health, 2000) [posted as supplied by author]

Criteria (when at least one criterion is positive the patient should be referred):

- Rectal bleeding with a change in bowel habit to looser stools and/or increased frequency of defecation persistent for 6 weeks. Age threshold: all ages.
- Change in bowel habit as above without rectal bleeding and persistent for 6 weeks. Age threshold: over 60 years.
- Rectal bleeding persistently without anal symptoms*. Age threshold: over 60 years.
- A definite palpable right-sided abdominal mass. Age threshold: all ages.
- A definite palpable rectal mass (not pelvic). Age threshold: all ages.
- Unexplained iron deficiency anaemia. In men: below 11g/dl, all ages. In women: below 10 g/dl, post menopausal.

* Anal symptoms include soreness, discomfort, itching, lumps and prolapse as well as pain.