

How to guide:
**Safety netting
search**

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Why consider a safety netting search for possible ovarian cancer misdiagnosis:

A CA125 blood test is carried out when a GP suspects it is possible ovarian cancer. However, the CA125 blood test can provide a false negative and it's important that patients presenting with symptoms are recalled for a follow up test if appropriate.

Description:

A safety netting search is a simple monthly search through the GP practice system to identify patients who have presented with symptoms of ovarian cancer and have had a recent normal CA125 blood test. These patients can be clinically reviewed and contacted if required to discuss any ongoing symptoms and need for follow up.

Who should use this guide:

This guide has been developed following a successful pilot of the safety netting search through Target Ovarian Cancer's Early Diagnosis Network and can help primary care teams implement and evaluate a similar intervention tailored to local need.



Step 1

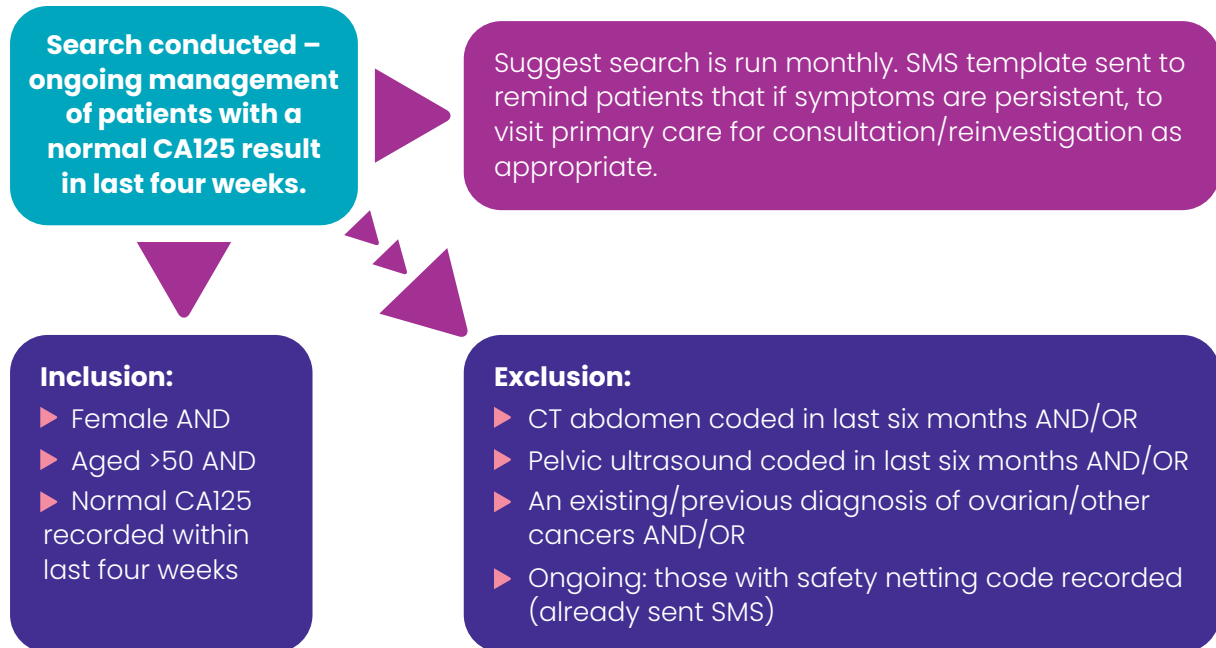
Contact Target Ovarian Cancer to discuss how the learning from the 'Breaking down barriers to early diagnosis' project can support you and your local stakeholders to diagnose ovarian cancer earlier. Please email: earlydiagnosis@targetovariancancer.org.uk.

Step 2

Identify a data lead to advise on the best approach to embedding the safety netting search on your primary care system alongside existing templates. Your commissioning support team may be able to help you with this.

▶ Step 3

Agree the search protocol. In our pilot areas, the following protocol was successfully evaluated, but you may wish to adapt this to local need:



▶ Step 4

Bring together a multidisciplinary team to agree the implementation plan and identify who will be best placed to run the search, review the case notes of patients identified and contact identified patients. This could be GPs, Physician Associates or other members of the clinical team.

In our pilot in Pennine Lancashire, Physician Associates took the lead on reviewing and contacting patients. The Physician Associates found the search a worthwhile exercise for them and their patients and noted that it helped them to identify potential misdiagnosis. Practices reported that patients were keen to undertake the CA125 blood test and be checked, with very few declining.

▶ Step 5

Consider how patients identified for follow up will be contacted through SMS, phone or letter. Target Ovarian Cancer can support you by providing SMS, letter and phone conversation templates which can be adapted.

▶ Step 6

Set up the search tool on your GP system.

▶ Step 7

Monitor the impact of the safety netting searches on primary care workload and patient outcomes. You could consider monitoring:

- ▶ The number of patients identified.
- ▶ Increases in CA125 blood tests ordered.
- ▶ Patient outcomes.
- ▶ GP's views on the usefulness and efficacy of the alert.

▶ Step 8

Share the outcomes from the safety netting search with Target Ovarian Cancer to help build further evidence and best practice within the Early Diagnosis Network.

Further resources

This How To guide has been developed to support the roll-out of best practice innovations to improve the early diagnosis of ovarian cancer.

Target Ovarian Cancer can provide further support, information and guidance about ovarian cancer to primary care teams through our **GP Network**, and can support you by delivering ovarian cancer diagnosis training and information sessions. We also offer a range of **support and information services** for people concerned about ovarian cancer including a nurse-led **support line**.

For more information about how we can support you, please email earlydiagnosis@targetovariancancer.org.uk.