



**Early diagnosis of cancer:  
How do we make sure patients  
don't slip through the net?**

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# Safety-netting: Definition

- Safety netting is a ‘diagnostic strategy<sup>1</sup>’ or ‘consultation technique<sup>2</sup>’ and requires effective systems and processes to ensure timely re-appraisal of a patient’s condition.
- NICE definition<sup>3</sup>: ‘A process where people at low risk, but not no risk, of having cancer are actively monitored in primary care to see if the risk of cancer changes’

# What is the guidance around safety netting?

**NICE Guidelines 2015:** *‘Consider a review for people with any symptom that is associated with an increased risk of cancer, but who do not meet the criteria for referral or other investigative action.*



*The review may be:*

- **planned** within a time frame agreed with the person, or
- **patient-initiated** if new symptoms develop, the person continues to be concerned, or their symptoms recur, persist or worsen’

# What is the guidance around safety netting?

## Safety-netting summary

**3 elements:**

**Patient communication**

**GP consultation**

**Practice systems**

# Patient communication



# GP consultation



# Practice systems



# Thank you!

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