

## NHS Highland

### ***A review of the clinical appropriateness of the need to refer samples for the assessment of markers CA19-9 and CA153 to laboratories outside local lab.***



NHS Highland carried out a review of CA19-9 and CA153 referrals to outside laboratories.

The aim was to reduce the numbers of samples sent away for testing, also to ensure that the tests were being performed on appropriate patients e.g. patients with KNOWN pancreas cancer and KNOWN metastatic breast cancer.

This review was undertaken because a previous review of samples revealed that a number of CA19-9 tests were being done as part of 'tumour marker screen' which was not an appropriate indication for testing

Despite reporting no reduction in the number of tests; there has been benefit to patients as tests are now being done on the correct patients e.g. for appropriate indication.

This work is now being carried out in the board and there is currently a vetting of tumour markers as part of the duties of the Duty Biochemist.