

RAPID DIAGNOSIS CLINICS

EVALUATION FINDINGS AT A GLANCE 2020-2023



GIG
CYMRU
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WALES

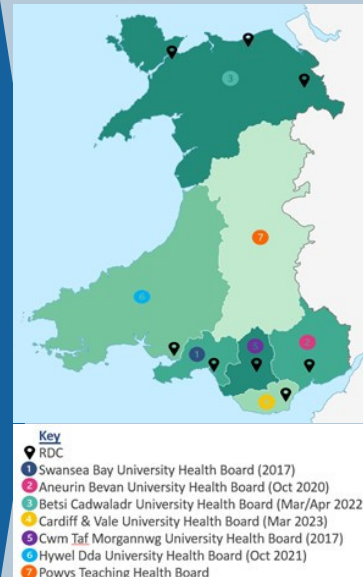
Rhwydwaith
Cancer
Cancer
Network

OVERVIEW

A large proportion of people have vague symptoms that don't immediately suggest cancer in a particular tumour site, so often have several referrals from GPs for tests and investigations, sometimes going down inappropriate cancer pathways.

Rapid Diagnosis Clinics (RDCs) offer a single point of access to a diagnostic pathway for all patients with serious vague symptoms that could represent cancer. The RDCs aim to offer a holistic, personalised, accurate and rapid diagnosis of patients' symptoms.

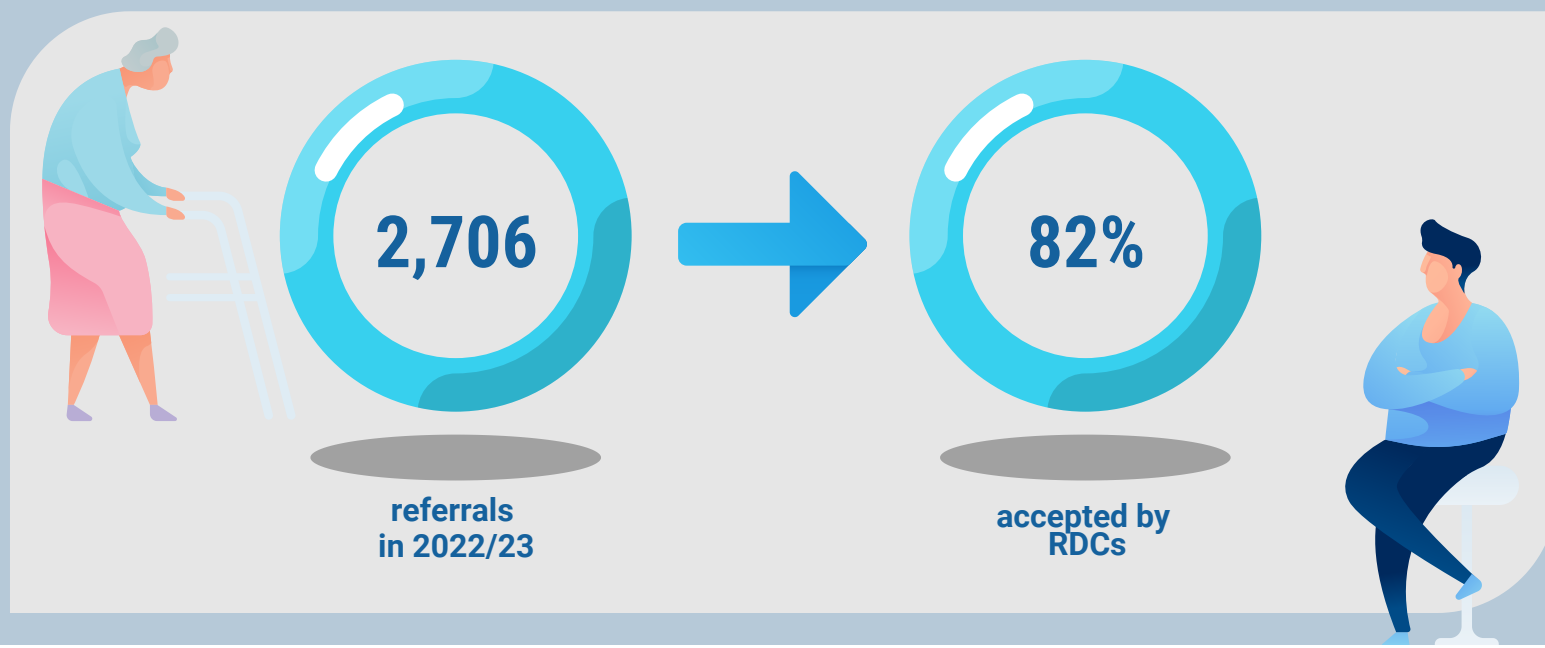
The all-Wales national RDC programme started in December 2020. It was funded and overseen by the Wales Cancer Network (WCN) in collaboration with all Welsh Health Boards and other national bodies including Digital Health and Care Wales, Improvement Cymru etc.



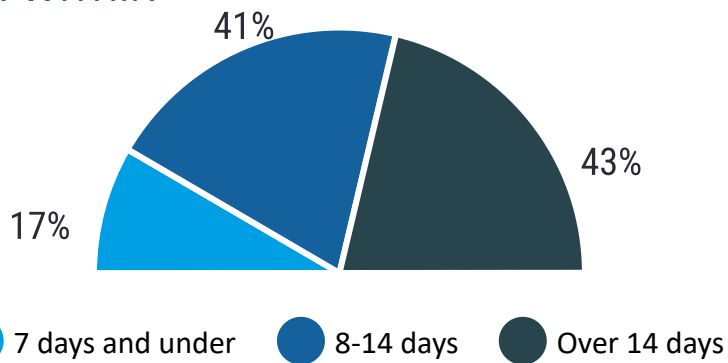
In 2023, RDCs in partnership with the Wales Cancer Network won an NHS Wales Award for providing services in partnership across NHS Wales.



KEY FINDINGS



PERCENTAGE OF PATIENTS SEEN WITHIN



Period: 22/23 Q1 – 23/24 Q1. Figures add up to more than 100% due to rounding issue.

Cancer conversion rate

35% no diagnosis, referred back to GP



23% non-cancer diagnosis, referred back to GP



2% no info provided



34% significant non-cancer diagnosis, referred to other secondary care teams



7%

Period: 22/23 Q1 – 23/24 Q1. Figures add up to more than 100% due to rounding issue.

PROPORTION (OF ACCEPTED REFERRALS) OF PATIENTS WHO WERE UNABLE TO ATTEND AT ANY POINT

RDCs

4.1%

All Wales

7.7%

Period: 22/23 Q1 – 23/24 Q1, compared to the 2018/19 DNA (did not attend) rate in outpatient services across Wales

“The process and care was fantastic and the speed of diagnosis took away all stress and fear that is associated when you are concerned that cancer is going to be diagnosed.” - Patient



KEY SUCCESSES

Six Health Boards have implemented an RDC service for their local population. Agreements are in place for patients from Powys to be referred to RDCs operated by neighbouring Health Boards.

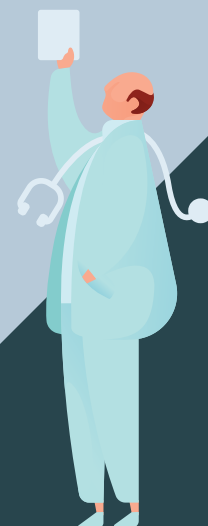
A high level of job satisfaction reported by RDC staff

Improved communication and understanding between primary and secondary care

Increased awareness of RDC and improved working relationship between the RDC team and other secondary care teams

Improved collaboration and networking between Health Boards and between the RDC teams

Proved that the nationally directed but locally delivered model can work effectively to implement an all-Wales programme



“RDC has demonstrated that patient care and services can be standardised to a certain extent between the Health Boards. It's an example of how collaboration can work when people are open to it.” - GP Clinical Lead

KEY CHALLENGES



Inconsistent quality of referrals which require continuous communication and education for GPs

Serving an increasing patient cohort with existing limited resource which can impact on achieving the national 7-day target

Uncertainty over or difficulty in securing funding to expand current service

Inconsistent data inputs from Health Boards to feed into the national dashboard to help assess the equity of RDC service across Wales

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS



Considering mainstreaming the service or opportunities to develop Community Diagnostic Hubs incorporating RDCs to improve the sustainability of the service



More publicity and educational events with GPs about RDCs, especially face-to-face engagement, to improve quality of referrals



Reviewing the objectives and key audience of the national dashboard to suit future evaluation needs.



Collecting socio-demographic info of patients across systems to help monitor and maintain equity and quality of the service.



WCN to continue to facilitate forums and meetings to enable cross-pollination and networking amongst RDC staff