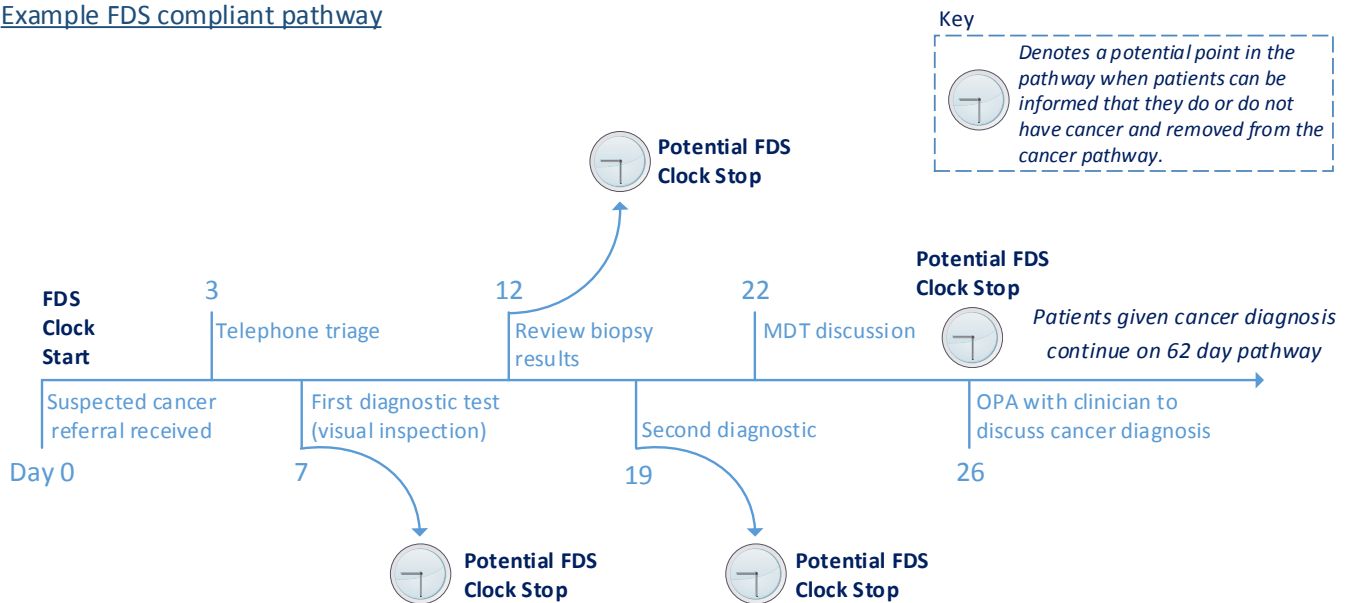


The 28 Day Faster Diagnosis Standard (FDS)

What is FDS?

- FDS is a new national standard to ensure any patient referred to secondary care under the suspicion of cancer undergoes all necessary diagnostic tests and receives communication ruling out or confirming a cancer diagnosis within 28 days.
- The standard applies to any patient referred for suspected cancer or breast symptoms from their GP or following an abnormal result from a national screening programme (breast, cervical and bowel).
- The FDS clock stops when the patient receives communication of whether they do or do not have cancer. This can be either; face-to-face, via a phone call or from the date the hospital sends a letter/e-mail/text to the patient.
- The patient may not necessarily be discharged following this communication as they may still be under investigation for a benign condition; the key for FDS is the communication of whether they do or do not have cancer.

Example FDS compliant pathway



Key points to consider

- FDS data is currently being collected in 2019/20 with performance monitored from April 2020.
- Activities are already underway in secondary care to ensure as many patients as possible will meet the standard from April 2020.
- Clinicians and hospital management should review and develop pathways and processes to support a 28 day compliant pathway.
- Clinicians should develop/adhere to processes with administrative teams to ensure the date a patient was informed of their cancer/non-cancer diagnosis is recorded clearly in the patient's notes.
- Ensure any patient on an FDS pathway has the appropriate pathology priority request denoted if a biopsy is taken for the purposes of diagnosing cancer.

For more information on FDS, please contact Tim Bill (Timothy.Bill@nhs.net)