**Bleeding after Menopause self-referral service will be live to the women of Somerset from Wednesday 13th September 2023.**

**Further to our comms from August:**

The Bleeding After Menopause Service for Somerset launches on Wednesday 13th September 2023.  Women who experience post menopausal bleeding or unusual discharge will be able to refer themselves directly into the service, bypassing their GP, with the aim to speed local access, earlier diagnosis and alleviate the pressure on Primary Care.

**Service objective**  to rule out or diagnose endometrial cancer.

1. Self referral can be completed online or over the telephone (taking approx. 20 minutes).
2. The completed form will be triaged and if the person meets the criteria they will be booked into a one stop clinic (available in multiple locations across the county\*) within 2 weeks of self referring.
3. The one stop appointment will consist of:
   * 1. Ultrasound scan (USS) with Sonographer
     2. Appointment with clinician which includes examination, past medical history, review of USS and pipelle biopsy if required.
4. The patient will either be discharged back to their GP if cancer / pre cancer pathology is not identified or onward referred to Musgrove or Yeovil Hospital for further investigation / treatment.

**Referral criteria**

**Women 55 years old and over**

1. Must be registered with a Somerset GP
2. Have NOT had a hysterectomy.
3. Must be post menopausal (not had a period for 12 consecutive months or longer)
4. Must NOT be taking Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT), or patients must have stopped HRT for at least 6 weeks.

**Women 54 years old or younger**

1. Must meet all criteria for 55 years old and over
2. Must be / have at least one of the following:
   1. Taking / or taken Tamoxifen in the last 5 years
   2. Diabetes
   3. BMI of 40 or above
   4. Family history of bowel or womb cancer (One first degree relative or two second degree relatives)

**Outside of these referral criteria women will still need to be seen and assessed in primary care as before.**

**Patient & GP practice awareness of service**

We would be grateful if you could share details of the service with your receptionists to enable them to signpost appropriate patients directly to the service avoiding the need for an appointment in primary care.

There are multiple ways to access the Somerset Bleeding After Menopause service:

1. Text the word ‘bleed’ to 82228. Standard Network Charges Apply.
2. Click on the link [Bleeding after Menopause - Cancer services (somersetft.nhs.uk)](https://www.somersetft.nhs.uk/cancer/cancer-services/post-menopausal-bleeding/)
3. Call the office team 01823 213567
4. Email:  [pmbgynae@somersetft.nhs.uk](mailto:pmbgynae@somersetft.nhs.uk)

**Information pack and posters including versions to print or use on digital screens will be shared with GP practices and available on Teamnet.**

Media campaigns will be launched from Monday 25th September including radio, bus, print and digital campaign to raise awareness of the symptoms and the service running throughout October, November & December.

**\*Locations of one stop clinics:**

1. Bridgwater Community Hospital
2. Minehead Community Hospital
3. South Petherton Community Hospital
4. West Mendip Community Hospital
5. Wellington Community Hospital
6. Wincanton Community Hospital
7. Yeovil District Hospital