



The Royal College of Pathologists

Pathology: the science behind the cure

Consultation ECR0156 Public Health England UK National Screening Committee – Stomach Cancer

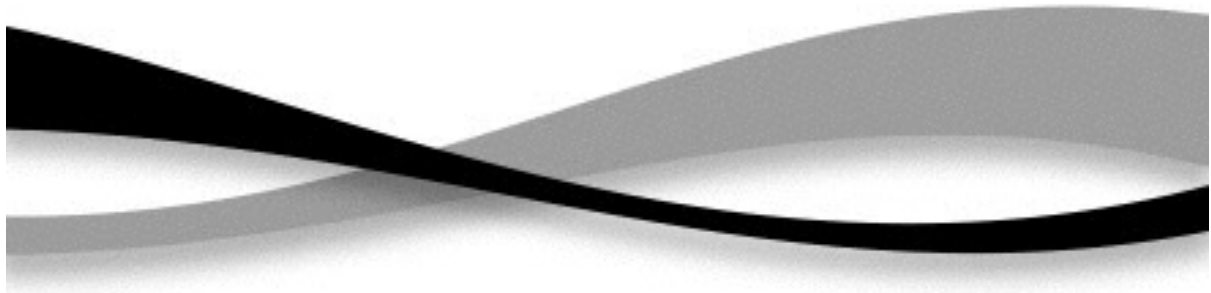
The Royal College of Pathologists' written submission

November 2015

For more information please contact:
Rachael Liebmann
Registrar

The Royal College of Pathologists
4th Floor
21 Prescot Street
London
E1 8BB

Phone: 020 7451 6700
Email: registrar@rcpath.org
Website: www.rcpath.org



1 About the Royal College of Pathologists

1.1 The Royal College of Pathologists (RCPATH) is a professional membership organisation with charitable status. It is committed to setting and maintaining professional standards and to promoting excellence in the teaching and practice of pathology. Pathology is the science at the heart of modern medicine and is involved in 70 per cent of all diagnoses made within the National Health Service. The College aims to advance the science and practice of pathology, to provide public education, to promote research in pathology and to disseminate the results. We have over 10,000 members across 19 specialties working in hospital laboratories, universities and industry worldwide to diagnose, treat and prevent illness.

1.2 The Royal College of Pathologists comments on the Consultation ECR0156 Public Health England UK National Screening Committee – Stomach Cancer. The following comments were made by Fellows of the College during the consultation which ran from 24th September until 6th November 2015 and collated by Dr Rachael Liebmann, Registrar.

2 General consultation responses:

2.1 Fellows agreed with the conclusion of this document i.e. that there is insufficient evidence of a suitable benefit:harm ratio currently to support the introduction of a screening programme for stomach cancer. The number of people who would need endoscopy per case of gastric cancer identified seems high and there is an absence of any economic models or calculations that would support untargeted screening.

2.2 We support the conclusion that given the sensitivity and specificity of existing tests cancer screening is unlikely to be cost effective on its own.

2.3 The College supports the Early Cancer Detection Consortium which aims to produce a generic blood test for cancer, are using multiple biomarkers.