

Box 1. Context coding of emergency presentation (EP)

- EP to primary care with no relevant prior contact
- EP to A&E with no relevant prior primary care contact
- EP occurred within an appropriate episode of care (e.g. patients who initially presented with non-alarm symptoms, patients who had relevant investigations before referral)
- EP occurred whilst awaiting a relevant secondary care appointment
- EP occurred following a missed opportunity for earlier investigation (i.e. GPs had not adhered to Scottish Referral Guidelines for Suspected Cancer)
- EP occurred after non-attendance of follow-up appointment/long periods between relevant consultations
- EP followed patient reluctance/refusal for secondary care investigation
- EP to A&E followed previous relevant primary care contact