

**Colour code your consultations:**

**Red flag questions: Key questions, key symptoms**

**Provide: Explanations tailored to the patient**

**Safety net: If I'm right, this will happen. If I'm not right, this is what to look out for...**

### **2.02 Red flag questions**

I need to ask you some key questions. These key questions might help me to figure out what is going on. But it might help us both, if you are able to remember these key symptoms afterwards.

- Have you noticed any persistent change in your bowel habit?
- How has your weight been?
- Has there been any blood in your stool?

### **2.02 Safety netting with checking understanding**

**Do you remember any of the key symptoms I mentioned earlier?**

Yes doctor, a persistent change in my bowel habit, or blood in my stool.

**Yes, that's right, and also weight loss without effort too. Please watch out for those key symptoms. We need to see you again sharpish if any of those happen. Occasionally they may suggest cancer. Even if that might only be a small risk. (A small risk might be a 1 in 20 risk or less.)**

**If I'm right, that you have irritable bowel syndrome, I would expect that your symptoms should come and go. If I'm not right, and your symptoms are constant, please come back to see me in 4 weeks time, or come back more urgently if you have any more of the key symptoms that I just mentioned. (Shall I write them down for you?)**