Oedema for >3 months

Is there a history of cancer?

Differential diagnosis: Cardiac, renal or hepatic failure
Venous insufficiency (inc. past DVT, chronic ulcers)
Side effect of medication
Undiagnosed malignancy in pelvis, abdomen, chest or lymph nodes
Obesity
Immobility
Chronic neurological disorder
Other surgery or major trauma
Thyroid dysfunction

Differential diagnosis: recurrence, cellulitis, DVT and see non-cancer list

If no apparent cause for exacerbation then may be secondary lymphoedema

Relevant history: "red flags" for cancer, cellulitis, infection, ulcers; recent trauma to area; long distance travel or enforced sedentary position; family history of swelling

Investigations to consider: FBC, U&E & CRP, TFT, LFT, CXR, ESR,
HbA1c if BMI>35,
CT scan of chest, pelvis and abdomen as relevant.

Findings indicative of other pathology

Refer for further investigations as appropriate

Refer for assessment to local Lymphoedema Service see Directory of Services on www.Lymphoedema-Scotland.org