

Key things to know about FIT England version



The Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) is a type of faecal occult blood test used to detect traces of human blood in stool samples. It is being used:

In Screening



As the primary test in the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme (BCSP)



For people aged 60–74¹ years every 2 years. People aged over 74, can request a kit²



The threshold for determining a positive result is set at 120µg Hb/g faeces

In Primary and Secondary care



As a test to guide the management of patients



For people who present symptomatically*



The threshold for determining a positive result is lower than BCSP (normally 10µg Hb/g faeces)

***Be aware to check local pathways**

Check locally what processes are in place to request additional kits

Screening pathway



Screening hub sends kit to eligible individuals by post



Individual completes and returns kit by post to screening hub



Screening hub sends result to individual by post. GPs are informed of all results electronically



Continue to be eligible for screening every two years



Invited for further tests (usually colonoscopy)



If a patient's screening result is negative and they develop symptoms they should be offered a symptomatic FIT test by their GP.

1 People younger than 60 will start to be invited as part of bowel screening age extension but pace of this change will vary across England
2 Contact the bowel cancer screening programme on 0800 707 6060

Symptomatic pathway

Primary care investigation



FIT is offered to people who present with symptoms



Kit is given out by the GP* or sent to the patient by the lab on GP request



Patient completes and returns kit to GP practice or nominated lab*



GPs will be given a result which may include a numerical value and communicates it to the patient



May still warrant further investigation depending on symptoms and clinical judgement (could consider repeat FIT)



GP refers to **lower GI pathway***

Triage in Secondary Care



GP refers people with symptoms to a specialist



GP or specialist* gives kit to symptomatic patient



Patient completes and returns kit to nominated lab*



Specialist receives the result and communicates it to the patient



Result fed into clinical triage and patient may still warrant further investigation depending on symptoms and clinical judgement



Result fed into clinical triage and further investigation*



Patients should not be discharged from the pathway based on a FIT result alone. Patients should be **safety netted** until symptoms are explained or resolved.

For further information visit cruk.org/primary-care-investigations or to give feedback contact earlydiagnosis@cancer.org.uk