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 60–74 years every 2 years. People aged over 74, can request a kit.
- The threshold for determining a positive result is set at 120µg Hb/g faeces

**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.

**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)

**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](http://cruk.org/primary-care-investigations) or to give feedback contact [earlydiagnosis@cancer.org.uk](mailto:earlydiagnosis@cancer.org.uk)

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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