Key things to know about FIT in Wales

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



Together we are beating cancer

- FIT is the primary test in the NHS Bowel Screening Wales (BSW) programme, aimed at people without symptoms.
- It is also used in primary or secondary care to guide the management of people who present with symptoms.
- There are key differences between each use of FIT which are important for health professionals to know. For example, the symptomatic threshold for a positive result (normally 10µg Hb/g) is lower than the screening threshold.

Screening pathway

Or

FIT is currently offered to people aged 51-74 years.*

The kit is sent to eligible individuals in the post.

A replacement kit can be ordered from BSW on 0800 294 3370.

The completed kit is returned by free post to the screening centre.

The threshold for a positive result is set at 120 µg HB/g faeces.

GPs are informed of all results and receive these electronically.

Those with a positive result are invited for further tests, normally colonoscopy.

Those who receive a negative result continue to be eligible for screening every two years.

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



Symptomatic pathway



FIT is offered to people who present with symptoms.**

The kit is given out by the GP, or sent to the patient by the lab on GP request.***



Refer to local guidance on how to order a replacement kit.



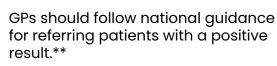
The patient returns the completed test to their GP practice or directly to the nominated lab.***



The threshold for determining a positive result is lower than BSW (normally 10 μ g HB/g).



GPs are informed of all results and receive these electronically.



Or

Those with a negative result may still warrant referral or further investigation.

Patients shouldn't be discharged based on a negative FIT result alone. Make sure to safety net patients until symptoms are explained or resolved.



- * People aged 50-54 are being invited to participate over the next few years. Bowel cancer screening was extended to people aged 51-54 in October 2023 and they will receive a FIT over the next 12 months.
- **According to NICE guidelines, the FIT National Optimal Pathway and BSG/ACBGPI recommendations.

***Check local pathways.



For further information visit cruk.org/bowelscreeninghub and cruk.org/FITsymptomatic

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