# Key things to know about FIT

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 test in the Northern Ireland Bowel Cancer Screening Programme (NI BCSP)
- For asymptomatic people aged 60–74 years every 2 years
- The threshold for determining a positive result is set at 150 μg Hb/g faeces

### In Primary 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 NI BCSP (normally 7 μg Hb/g faeces)

### Screening pathway
- Kits are sent to eligible individuals by post
- Individual completes and returns kit by post to laboratory
- Results are sent to individuals by post. GPs are informed of all results by letter. Screening results do not provide a quantitative value, and rather indicate where further investigations are needed
- Continue to be eligible for screening every two years

### Symptomatic pathway
- FIT is offered to people who present with symptoms
- Kit is given out by the GP practice. To order more kits or leaflets email FPS eBusiness
- Patient completes and returns kit to GP practice
- GPs will be sent an electronic numerical result and discusses the result with the patient at review
- May still warrant further investigation depending on symptoms and clinical judgement

---

For further information visit [cruk.org/primary-care-investigations](cruk.org/primary-care-investigations) or [nican.hscni.net/info-for-professionals/primary-care/qfit/](nican.hscni.net/info-for-professionals/primary-care/qfit/)

Further information on the NI BCSP is available by contacting the freephone helpline 0800 015 2514 or at [nidirect.gov.uk](nidirect.gov.uk)