

FAST FACTS FIT for Clinicians



Recommended Course Faecal Immunochemical Test



FREE

TEST

FIT should be requested in all patients with symptoms of colorectal cancer (except anal or rectal mass or anal ulceration), including those with rectal bleeding. A referral should be made if the test is positive.

SAMPLES

Patients may worry about the practicalities of collecting a sample. Take time to talk them through what to do.

Remember

Use the correct container and label appropriately.

SCREENING THRESHOLDS

The threshold for FIT in screening in England is 120 μ g/g, compared to a threshold of 10 μ g/g for symptomatic patients. Do not be reassured by a negative screening test in a symptomatic patient.

EXAMINATION

1 CPD

Patients should be referred on a colorectal suspected cancer pathway without FIT if they have an anal or rectal mass, or anal ulceration. It is vital that all patients are examined, including DRE.



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Consider formal safety netting processes to ensure samples are returned and results are acted on.



FIT does not exclude other cancers and a small percentage of patients with a negative FIT will have colorectal cancer. Ensure patients are given clear safety netting instructions and consider referring patients with persistent symptoms.

