ColonCancerCheck (CCC)
Guide to Average Risk Screening with the Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) in Ontario

Average risk

• Age 50 to 74
• Asymptomatic
• No first-degree relative diagnosed with colorectal cancer
• No personal history of colorectal cancer, Crohn’s disease involving colon or ulcerative colitis
• No colorectal polyps needing surveillance¹
• Valid OHIP number

Due for screening¹²

Fecal immunochemical test (FIT)³

Normal

Abnormal

Repeat FIT
Every 2 years

Colonoscopy
Perform within 8 weeks of abnormal FIT result

Normal
Repeat with FIT in 10 years

Abnormal
Treatment or surveillance as per recommendations¹

Not at average risk

Is your patient at increased risk?

• One or more first-degree relatives with colorectal cancer:
  • Colonoscopy – start at age 50, or 10 years earlier than the age their relative was diagnosed, whichever occurs first
  • Take a complete history of cancers in the family – if a hereditary cancer syndrome is suspected, refer for genetic assessment

Does your patient have symptoms (e.g., rectal bleeding) or anemia?

• Refer to specialist for evaluation
• Do not use FIT for symptomatic patients

Tests not recommended for colorectal cancer screening

For patients at average risk:

• Colonoscopy

For all patients:

• Metabolomic (blood or urine) tests
• DNA (blood or stool) tests
• Computed tomography colonography
• Capsule colonoscopy
• Double contrast barium enema
• Guaiac fecal occult blood test (now replaced by FIT)

More clinical information and resources

Visit: cancercareontario.ca/en/pscreeningprograms
Email: screenforlife@cancercare.on.ca
Call: 1-866-662-9233

Footnotes:
1. Recommendations for post-polypectomy surveillance: cancercareontario.ca/CCCsurveillance
2. No flexible sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy in the past 10 years, and no FIT in the past 2 years
   Recommendations for patients who had 1 or more low risk adenomas 5 or 10 years ago: cancercareontario.ca/CCCsurveillance
3. Flexible sigmoidoscopy every 10 years is also an acceptable screening test
About FIT
FIT is an at-home stool-based screening test for people at average risk of colorectal cancer
Safe • Sensitive • No dietary or medication restrictions • One sample • Easy to use • Pre-labelled

How to screen with FIT

Steps for primary care providers:
1. Confirm mailing address for FIT kit, patient address and date of birth
2. Explain to patient how to do the FIT
3. Submit completed FIT requisition to LifeLabs (e.g., faxing 1-833-676-1427 or by electronic medical records)

LifeLabs: Mail pre-labelled FIT kit to patient

Steps for patients:
1. Check label accuracy and clearly record specimen ("poop") collection date on FIT tube (DD/MMM/YYYY)
2. Collect stool specimen
3. Mail or drop off FIT to LifeLabs as soon as possible, ideally within 2 days of specimen collection, to ensure it arrives at the lab within 14 days

LifeLabs: Send FIT result to primary care provider
Cancer Care Ontario: Mail FIT result letter to patient

Follow-up by primary care providers:
• Normal FIT result: Repeat FIT in 2 years
• Abnormal FIT result: Refer for follow-up colonoscopy to be performed within 8 weeks

Make sure patients get their FIT
• To prevent mailing errors and delays, double check patient address information, such as unit number and postal code
• Providers can indicate on the FIT requisition whether the FIT kit should be mailed to an alternate address, which may differ from the patient’s primary mailing address (e.g., health centre or nursing station for patients who live on a First Nation reserve, or a community health centre for home insecure patients)

FIT drop-off options for patients
• Patients can drop off their FIT at any LifeLabs Patient Service Centre during business hours – for locations and hours, visit locations.LifeLabs.com
• Patients who live on a First Nation reserve can contact their health centre or nursing station to discuss drop-off options.

FIT resources
• Information and resources, including the FIT requisition, FIT instructions for patients in several languages, and resources for First Nations, Inuit, Métis and urban Indigenous people: cancercareontario.ca/FITHub
• OHIP billing code updates: health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/ohip/sob/
• LifeLabs: call 1-833-676-1426

Need this information in an accessible format? 1-855-460-2647, TTY 416-217-1815, publicaffairs@cancercare.on.ca