

FIT Mail Out Initiative

Frequently Asked Questions for Primary Care Providers

Who is NOT eligible to order a FIT online or by phone?

Albertans who are under the age of 50 or over the age of 74 are not eligible for population based colorectal cancer screening. Albertans who are aged 50 to 74 who are ordering a FIT online must complete an online eligibility questionnaire. Eligibility questions include whether they have symptoms, personal history of colorectal cancer, family history of colorectal cancer in a first degree relative or whether they are due for screening.

How will my patient get their FIT result?

If your patient orders a FIT through the online or phone system, they will receive a result letter in the mail.

Will I be sent my patient's FIT result?

Due to current system limitations, primary care providers will not be copied on the lab requisition for those FITs ordered online or by telephone. However, for those who have access, results are accessible through Netcare. We are actively working to have this issue resolved.

What about my patient's follow-up care if they have an abnormal result?

To support continuity of care we ask primary care providers to continue to coordinate necessary follow up care after an abnormal result. Patients that have ordered their test through the online or phone system and have an abnormal result, will be mailed an [abnormal FIT result letter](#). This letter will explain what an abnormal FIT result means and ask them to book an appointment with their regular healthcare provider as soon as possible to discuss whether a follow-up colonoscopy is right for them.

What about the unattached patient's follow-up care?

The [abnormal FIT result letter](#), signed by the ordering physician, Dr. Yang, Medical Director with AHS Screening Programs, clearly outlines the next steps the patient should take. The letter emphasizes the patient is to make an appointment with a family doctor as soon as possible to discuss their abnormal result and a follow-up colonoscopy. A list of resources to help find a family doctor accepting new patients is provided in this letter. If the unattached patient has questions or needs further assistance finding a healthcare provider they are asked to call AHS Screening Programs toll-free number at 1-866-727-3926.

Can I still order FITs in my practice using the community lab requisition? Can I send my patients to [screeningforlife.ca](#) to order a FIT?

Yes, Albertans ages 50 to 74 are still recommended to have a discussion with their primary care provider to make an informed decision about colorectal cancer screening. Primary care providers can still provide patients with a lab requisition that they can take to a lab to get their FIT kit. If you direct your patient to order a FIT kit online, it is not necessary to give them a requisition.

Individuals who are **younger than 50 or older than 74** and **eligible** for FIT screening based on the TOP Clinical Practice Guidelines¹ will need to speak to their primary care provider to get a lab requisition that they can take to a lab to get their FIT kit. Individuals outside of the ages of 50 to 74 will not be able to order a FIT online or by phone.

About AHS Screening Programs

AHS Screening Programs is a province-wide organized program designed to encourage eligible Albertans to get screened. The programs' goal is to reduce the number of colorectal cancer-related deaths in the province. If you would like more information about the program or the FIT Mail Out Initiative, visit [screeningforlife.ca](#), call 1-866-727-3926 or email acrcsp@ahs.ca.

1. [colorectal-cancer-screening-guideline.pdf \(albertadoctors.org\)](#)