

When to use the Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT)

Is your **asymptomatic** patient...

Average risk: Age 50-74

No personal or family history of polyps or colorectal cancer (CRC)



Screen with FIT every 1-2 years

If FIT positive refer for colonoscopy. Do not repeat the FIT test.

Please wait 10 years after a normal colonoscopy (i.e., no polyps), or follow surveillance recommendation by endoscopist, to screen with FIT



If your patient has been screened prior to this recommended interval and is now FIT **positive** please refer the patient to the endoscopist who performed the previous colonoscopy for consultation

If the quality of the colonoscopy was uncertain, screen with FIT 5 years after colonoscopy

FIT is also appropriate for patients aged 75 to 84 years, following assessment of health status and life expectancy.

Increased risk

Family History: CRC and/or high risk adenomas

High risk colonic adenoma is defined as having one or more of the following: size greater or equal to 1 cm; villous elements; high grade dysplasia; more than three adenomas found at one colonoscopy



1st degree relative >60 years at diagnosis

Screen with FIT every 1-2 years starting at age 40

If FIT **positive** refer for colonoscopy



1st degree relative ≤60 years at diagnosis or two or more affected relatives

Refer for a colonoscopy at age 40, or 10 years prior to the index case, whichever is earliest

Please
do not
use FIT

As a diagnostic test for CRC in symptomatic patients (e.g., reported bloody stools or recent change in bowel habit)

As a diagnostic test to investigate patients' reporting gastrointestinal symptoms at any age (e.g., abdominal pain)

To determine or exclude a cause for anemia and/or rectal bleeding

As a CRC screening test when the patient has inflammatory bowel disease, acute gastroenteritis or C. difficile colitis, actively bleeding hemorrhoids or anal fissure or similar acute gastrointestinal condition



Inappropriate use of FIT can result in delays to proper diagnostic investigation, diagnosis, and management.

Recommend the patient undergo appropriate diagnostic investigation and referral.

For more information about the Alberta Colorectal Cancer Screening Program, visit screeningforlife.ca

