

Ref: EoECCC011

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7 June 2021

Dear Colleague

A FIT (faecal immunochemical test) result must accompany all colorectal 2WW referrals

FIT was originally introduced for use in Primary Care in 2018 for low risk patients who did not fulfil NG12 referral criteria for suspected colorectal cancer. Since then the evidence base for its clinical use has substantially increased. Data now shows how useful a FIT result is for assessing risk of colorectal cancer in symptomatic patients fulfilling NG12 criteria.

Faecal immunochemical test is superior to symptoms in predicting pathology in patients with suspected colorectal cancer symptoms referred on a 2WW pathway: a diagnostic accuracy study. D'Souza et al. On behalf of the NICE FIT Steering Group. **Gut** 2021;70:1130-1138.

qFIT cut-off	+ve result	NNS	Sensitivity for CRC	PPV for CRC	NPV for CRC
2 µg/g	37%	11	97%	9%	99.8%
10 µg/g	19%	6	91%	16%	99.6%
150 µg/g	8%	3	71%	31%	98.9%

FIT is now considered integral to the assessment of patients with symptoms and signs suggestive of possible bowel cancer and directs these patients to the most appropriate investigation as quickly as possible. Decision to refer is still based on NG12 criteria but **all patients (including those with rectal bleeding) should now**

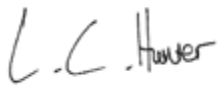


have a FIT test as part of their assessment and the result should be included in the 2WW referral.

The use of FIT in this way is recommended by the National Cancer Team and the British Society of Gastroenterology and is strongly supported by the both the East of England Cancer Alliance Primary Care Group and Colorectal Clinical network.

The majority of Primary Care clinicians are doing this already, but our colorectal clinicians and patient groups report that some patients are being referred without a result which leads to delays and anxiety for patients. National guidance states that the duty of care is with the referring practice to provide the required information with the referral. Incomplete information will generate a query to the practice to provide this before further processing. **We therefore ask you to ensure that a FIT result accompanies all referrals in your ICS.** Support is available for clinical engagement and education if required.

Yours sincerely



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