

Implementation of Centralized Fecal Immunochemical Testing (FIT) for Colorectal Cancer Screening

Effective: June 20, 2023

Background Information:

CancerCare Manitoba and Shared Health are leading Manitoba's transition to centralized colorectal cancer screening using the fecal immunochemical test (FIT). FIT will replace the guaiac fecal occult blood test (gFOBT) that is currently in use.

FIT will only be available through CancerCare Manitoba's ColonCheck program and will be sent by mail or can be picked up by patients. Analysis of FITs will be done by Cadham Provincial Laboratory and patient result management and colonoscopy referrals will be done by ColonCheck.

Change in Procedure:

- ColonCheck will provide FIT kits to eligible Manitobans through:
 - Population-based recruitment, where ColonCheck automatically sends FIT invitations to eligible Manitobans, age 50-74.
 - Healthcare provider requests submitted using the FIT requisition form. The form is available on most EMR systems or online at www.cancercare.mb.ca/screening/hcp.
 - A patient's self-request to ColonCheck.
- FIT results will be communicated to healthcare providers by Cadham Provincial Laboratory.
- FIT results will be communicated to patients by ColonCheck.
- ColonCheck will provide direct referrals to colonoscopy for patients who have abnormal FIT results. This process will include communicating the abnormal result to the patient, performing a pre-colonoscopy health assessment, processing the referral to colonoscopy, and preparing the patient for the procedure. Referring healthcare providers will be copied on all procedure reports.
- The gFOBT will be removed from the Shared Health Body Fluid Requisition and Biochemistry Hematology Requisition forms. Patients will be able to return gFOBT cards that were previously issued to Shared Health Labs until September 29, 2023, after which time they will be rejected.
- Dynacare will continue to accept gFOBT requests until September 29, 2023 and patients will be able to return gFOBT cards that were previously issued. After September 29th, all gFOBT requests will be rejected and an appropriate comment provided to get FIT. Going forward, gFOBT will be removed from new Dynacare Manitoba requisitions.
- Planning is underway to send FIT results electronically to eChart and EMRs in winter 2023/24.

Next Steps:

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- Encourage your eligible patients to be screened with the new FIT colorectal cancer screening test.
- Request a FIT be sent to your patients using the new FIT Requisition form.
- Upload the new FIT form to your EMR and remove the old FOBT Requisition Form.

Patient Improvements:

- Earlier detection of colorectal cancer, reducing mortality from the disease.
- Equitable access to colorectal cancer screening through a province-wide distribution strategy.
- Access to a more sensitive screening test.
- Easier to use test will increase patient compliance and participation in screening.

System Improvements:

- Standardized and coordinated provincial processes.
- Targeted recruitment and adherence to guidelines, providing more efficient use of resources.
- Supports consistent, appropriate, and direct colonoscopy referrals province-wide.

Forms and Supporting Resources:

Visit www.cancercare.mb.ca/screening/hcp for the FIT Requisition Form, screening guidelines, and other resources for healthcare providers and patients.

More Information:

For more information, call ColonCheck at 204-788-8635, or visit www.cancercare.mb.ca/screening/hcp.

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