

Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT): safety netting guidance

It is recommended that each practice, assuming there is no system already in place, should keep a patient tracking system if the GP has requested a FIT test, to ensure tests are completed, returned and acted on.

Safety netting low-risk suspected colorectal cancer patients will support the CCG and Trust with evaluation of the roll out of FIT and provide valuable insight to further support primary care.

Steps should include:

- Informing the patient reason for the test.
- Checking that the patient's contact details are up to date.
- Printing the request form and inserting it into the test pack before handing it over to the patient.
- Nominating a staff member to keep the safety netting spreadsheet or relevant system up to date.
- Unless GP practice has their own system already, it is recommended that a practice has a system in place eg a spreadsheet that logs the date the test is given to patient, the GP requester, patient NHS number and when to expect results.
- This spreadsheet should be shared in a shared drive (unless GP practice has their own system already).
- A patient should return their kit to the practice within three working days and it should be sent to SWLP using the usual transport links for testing.
- If a kit is not returned, the GP practice should, if deemed appropriate, follow up the patient.
- Checking that results are received within 48 hours, acted on and shared with the patient.
- Updating the spreadsheet with results and further outcomes.

Please note: the FIT threshold used in screening (120ug/g) is different to FIT thresholds in symptomatic patients (10ug/g). This means that patients who have a negative screening result may still have bowel cancer and should be offered a symptomatic FIT test if appropriate.

Cancer Research UK, endorsed by RCGP, have created a downloadable summary in table or flowchart format to further support practices.

[View the downloadable summary](#)