

Our ref: OS/FIT

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Dear GP Colleagues and Practice Staff,

### **Update on Faecal Immunochemical Testing (FIT)**

Following the launch of FIT for symptomatic patients in March of this year, we have experienced a few problems.

1. Some specimens are being returned in blue topped bottles. This is not appropriate as there is no 'buffer') and therefore the sample cannot be used.
2. The 'buffer' solution in some specimens has leaked out (either occurring through the wrong end of the tube being opened, or perhaps through dropping of the tube) and therefore the sample cannot be used.
3. The specimen is too large and therefore cannot be used.

We have therefore revised the information leaflet for patients to try to improve the sampling and reduce the number of inadequate tests, and I have attached a copy to this letter.

We would also like to remind practices to only order FIT kits when they are required rather than stock piling. Each unit contains 5 tests and 2 units can be ordered at a time.

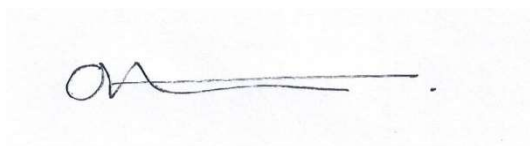
**If a patient fits the 2ww criteria they do not need a FIT test and will get investigated anyway.**

We are referring to FIT as the test used for symptomatic patients, NOT asymptomatic patients in the community, the screening programmes will pick up the asymptomatic patients.

It is worth noting however that from 7<sup>th</sup> June the bowel screening programme has also changed to FIT.

Although symptomatic testing and the national asymptomatic screening programme use the same FIT test, they use different values for a positive result.

Yours sincerely



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**GP Clinical Lead for Cancer**