

TEST UPDATE

Fecal Occult Screening (3 cards) to be Discontinued

UVMMMC

Effective 9/13/23, the UVMMMC laboratory will be discontinuing fecal occult blood screening utilizing the traditional guaiac testing cards. The preferred fecal occult blood test for colorectal cancer screening is a fecal immunochemical test (FIT). Compared to guaiac-based testing methods, FIT testing has increased sensitivity for colorectal cancer, as well as advanced colorectal neoplasia and adenoma.¹ In addition, the American College of Physicians recommend FIT as the 1st line non-invasive screen for colorectal cancer in asymptomatic average-risk adults and does not support the use of Cologuard® in this patient population.²

Orderables to be Discontinued	Epic Code	Atlas Code	Mayo Access ID
Occult Blood Screen	LAB694	SOCCB	N/A
POCT Occult Blood Slide Test x3	POC13	N/A	N/A

Preferred Orderable	Epic Code	Atlas Code	Mayo Test ID	Order LOINC
Fecal Immunochemistry Test (FIT)	LAB3684	FIT	FOBT	29771-3
Result Components	Epic Code	Atlas Code	Mayo Test ID	Result LOINC
Fecal Occult Blood, Immunochemical	12301006049	MFOB	FOBT	29771-3
Specimen Requirements				

Guaiac-based testing will still be available for the investigation of upper and lower GI bleeding. This testing is performed in the main laboratory or as a Point of Care Test (POCT).

Orderables for Guaiac based testing	Epic Code	Atlas Code	Mayo Access ID	Order LOINC
Occult Blood, Feces, Diagnostic	LAB697	OCCB	N/A	2335-8
POCT Occult Blood Slide Test x1	POC504	N/A	N/A	N/A

Clinic sites that order the guaiac-based cards for their current colorectal cancer screening needs should discontinue using these and contact UVMMMC Lab Outreach (laboutreach@uvmhealth.org) to obtain FIT testing kits. *The FIT testing kits contain a return envelope that is pre-addressed to the UVMMMC laboratory so that patients no longer need to drop off their samples at a clinic or hospital site, but can mail them through regular mail at their convenience.*

If you have any questions or concerns about this change, please contact the UVMMMC Medical Director of Clinical Chemistry Dr. Clayton Wilburn at clayton.wilburn@uvmhealth.org.

References:

1. Lin et al. Screening for Colorectal Cancer Updated Evidence Report and Systematic Review for the US Preventive Services Task Force. JAMA. 2021;325(19):1978-1997. doi:10.1001/jama.2021.4417
2. Amir Qaseem, Curtis S. Harrod, Carolyn J. Crandall, et al; Clinical Guidelines Committee of the American College of Physicians*. Screening for Colorectal Cancer in Asymptomatic Average-Risk Adults: A Guidance Statement From the American College of Physicians (Version 2). Ann Intern Med. [Epub 1 August 2023]. doi:10.7326/M23-0779

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