

Cancer Screening Tip of the Month – January 2024

Toronto Central Regional Cancer Program, Cancer Screening eBulletin

ColonCancerCheck (CCC) Update

NEW: Reducing Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) Device Rejections

As of **December 4, 2023**, LifeLabs will accept unexpired FIT devices for testing if they are returned no later than **12 months** after the FIT kit was mailed. Prior to this change, FIT devices returned more than 6 months after mailing would be rejected.

This change will help to reduce:

- FIT device rejections
- The number of participants requiring unnecessary re-testing
- The risk of missed or delayed cancer detection for participants who do not re-test
- The added burden on primary care providers to re-requisition
- Unnecessary kit wastage

The FIT kit ordering and replacement process remains the same. The shelf life of FIT devices has not been extended and it is possible for FIT devices to expire before 12 months has passed.

Primary care providers should continue to encourage their patients to complete their FIT as soon as they receive it in the mail and to also check the expiry date of the FIT device.

REMINDER! FIT is **not appropriate** for people at increased risk of colorectal cancer or people with signs and/or symptoms of colorectal cancer. These patients should be sent directly to colonoscopy. This includes but is not limited to:

- Rectal bleeding regardless of suspected cause (including hemorrhoids)
- Unexplained anemia
- Change in bowel habits
- Unexplained weight loss

Access the Colorectal Cancer Screening Recommendations Summary [here](#). Click [here](#) for colorectal screening resources and tools to support your practice.

Screening Patients Over Age 74:

The ColonCancerCheck program does not recommend systematic screening of all people over age 74.

- However, healthy people may choose to continue to be screened between the ages of 74 and 84 if the benefits of screening outweigh the risks.
- LifeLabs will reject FIT requisitions submitted for people older than age 85.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Questions? If you have any questions or if you would no longer like to receive the Cancer Screening Tip of the Month please email the Toronto Central Regional Cancer Program, Cancer Screening team: info@TCcancerscreening.ca