



Laboratory Medicine Bulletin

Discontinuation of Inpatient Fecal Occult Blood Testing

June 15, 2018

As of June 22, 2018, the laboratories at St Paul's Hospital and Mount Saint Joseph Hospital will no longer be performing 'hemoccult' (guaiac) fecal occult blood testing.

No fecal occult blood testing will be available for hospital inpatients. The hemoccult test is not indicated for rule in/rule out of GI bleeding, or for colorectal cancer screening.

For colorectal cancer screening, FIT testing has replaced hemoccult testing. If colorectal cancer screening is desired for long-term inpatients, arrangements can be made for a BCCA FIT screening kit to be provided by contacting the laboratory.

This change will not impact bedside testing done in the emergency departments.

Questions and comments regarding this change are welcome and should be directed to Dr. Janet Simons at 604-806-8193.



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