



Withdrawal of Faecal Occult Blood (FOB) testing

Please note that from **12 February 2018**, FOB testing will be withdrawn completely from Pathlab laboratories and Waikato Hospital.

FOB testing using the Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) test is neither sensitive nor specific enough to be used as a diagnostic test in a symptomatic individual. It is only suitable for, and validated as a screening test for colorectal cancer when applied to an average risk, asymptomatic population. It is not validated for any other clinical use.

This decision has been approved by the Laboratory Clinical Boards from Lakes, Bay of Plenty and Waikato DHBs respectively, and has the full support of the gastroenterologists and colorectal surgeons from each of these DHBs.

The funded National Bowel Cancer Screening programme will commence in this region within the next two years.

<https://www.nsu.govt.nz/national-bowel-screening-programme>

If there are any questions with regards to this update, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

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**Please ensure all members of your institution receive
a copy of this clinical update.**

CLINICAL UPDATE