

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 03 October 2017

TO: Island Health Physician Group and Island Health Laboratory Staff

FROM: Dr Gordon Hoag – Medical Director, Island Health Laboratory Medicine, Pathology & Medical Genetics

RE: Fecal Occult Blood Testing Suspended

Fecal Occult Blood Testing Suspended

Please note all laboratory medicine providers in BC have suspended Fecal Occult Blood testing using Fecal Immunochemical Testing (FIT) due to a manufacturer reagent problem.

The issue is being investigated in conjunction with the manufacturer and other laboratory providers and stakeholders in BC. More information on the status of testing will be provided when it becomes available. At this time, Island Health Laboratories are not able to estimate when testing will resume.

What this means:

For patients with a requisition for fecal occult blood testing:

- Collection kits will not be issued.
- Patients will be advised that this test is not currently available and to check http://www.viha.ca/laboratory_medicine/ for information and updates.
- Requisition will be returned to the patient for use when testing resumes

For patients submitting a specimen:

- The specimen will be accepted, but it will not be tested and will be disposed of safely.
- Patients will be advised that this test is not currently available and to check http://www.viha.ca/laboratory_medicine/ for information and updates.

For patients who have previously submitted a specimen that has not been reported

- Testing will not be performed.
- Patients will be advised that this test is not currently available and to check http://www.viha.ca/laboratory_medicine/ for information and updates.

Notification will be sent out when testing is able to resume. Questions or concerns regarding this issue can be directed to Dr Gordon Hoag at 250-370-8437 (office) or 250-889-2639 (cell).