

qFIT test is here...to help rule out colorectal cancer in patients with “low but not no risk”

The Quantitative Faecal Immunochemical Test (qFIT) to help rule out colorectal cancer in “low risk but not no risk” patients will be available across Kent and Medway from 17th December 2020.

NICE DG30 recommends that clinicians offer qFIT for people without rectal bleeding but with unexplained symptoms that do not meet the guidelines for a suspected cancer referral. Those that meet the NG12 guidelines (NICE guidelines for suspected cancer 2015) for colorectal cancer should continue to be referred via the colorectal suspected cancer route.

The patient population for whom qFIT is recommended are those already at low risk (less than 3%) and with the test threshold of 10ug Hb/g faeces research reviewed in NICE DG30 has demonstrated a **negative predictive value of over 99% for colorectal cancer.**

qFIT tests are most suitable for adults

- **without rectal bleeding**
- **with unexplained symptoms**
- **do not meet the guidelines for an NG12/ 2 week wait referral**

An initial batch of test kits will be distributed to each GP Practice and can be reordered from the pathology labs at Maidstone Hospital, Dartford Hospital or William Harvey Hospital.

Please request the qFIT test using the DART system in East Kent and ICE system in North and West Kent.

We recommend that patients are safety netted internally as if the test is positive then the patient will need a suspected colorectal cancer referral. If the test is negative the patient may need to be reviewed for ongoing symptoms that may require further investigations that may lead to an alternative diagnosis such as IBD or other cancers.

Please contact the Kent and Medway Cancer team with any further questions.