

<b>Date:</b>	October 28, 2021
<b>To:</b>	All NH Physicians and Nursing Wards
<b>From:</b>	Dr. K. Heydarzadeh-Azar, Pathologist NE & NW HSDA Dr. V. Meneghetti, Pathologist NI HSDA Dr. R. Saeedi, NH Biochemist consultant
<b>Cc:</b>	Lisette Vienneau, NH Director of Diagnostic Services
<b>Re:</b>	Discontinuation of Fecal Occult Blood (iFOB) Testing

**Background:**

- The controls used for Fecal Occult Blood testing do not have Health Canada approval; therefore, NH labs no longer offer Fecal Occult Blood Testing
- At the recommendation of NH pathologists and after discussion with NH consultant biochemist, Fecal Occult Blood Testing will be discontinued.
- The decision was endorsed by the Laboratory Utilization Committee (LUC) on September 10, 2021

**Action:**

- Fecal Occult Blood Testing will be discontinued starting November 1, 2021.
- Northern Health will continue to offer Fecal immunochemical test (FIT) as send out.

**Direct any inquiries or feedback to:**

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- Dr. R. Saeedi [ramesh.saeedi@northernhealth.ca](mailto:ramesh.saeedi@northernhealth.ca)
- Dr. V. Meneghetti [victor.meneghetti@northernhealth.ca](mailto:victor.meneghetti@northernhealth.ca)

**References:**

- <https://canadiantaskforce.ca/guidelines/published-guidelines/colorectal-cancer/>
- <https://gastro.org/press-releases/task-force-presents-new-ranking-of-colorectal-cancer-screening-tests/>
- [https://journals.lww.com/ajg/fulltext/2021/03000/acg\\_clinical\\_guidelines\\_colorectal\\_cancer.14.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/ajg/fulltext/2021/03000/acg_clinical_guidelines_colorectal_cancer.14.aspx)
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- <https://www.journalofhospitalmedicine.com/jhospmed/article/142059/hospital-medicine/fecal-occult-blood-testing-hospitalized-patients-upper>