


# Guideline for Colorectal Screening, Surveillance and Recall

This guideline is for colorectal screening and surveillance/recall in asymptomatic patients. Symptomatic patients are investigated by the Physician as clinically indicated. Patients followed by colonoscopy do not require FIT.

**High-Risk Lesions** – Adenoma with one or more of:  $\geq 10\text{mm}$ , Villous features, or High-Grade Dysplasia; SSL  $\geq 10\text{mm}$ ; SSL with Cytologic Dysplasia; Traditional Serrated Adenoma; Hyperplastic Polyp  $\geq 10\text{mm}$ . Precancerous lesions that do not meet the above criteria are classified as low-risk.

**Low-Risk Lesions** – Tubular Adenoma  $< 10\text{mm}$  or Sessile Serrated Lesion (SSL)  $< 10\text{mm}$  without dysplasia

| INITIAL SCREENING  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Average risk:</b>   |   |  |   |
| 50-74 years (Patient with no FH CRC <sup>a</sup> )   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fecal immunochemical test (FIT) every 2 years</li> <li>Follow up ANY abnormal FIT with colonoscopy</li> <li>Do not use FIT in symptomatic patients</li> <li>Following adequate negative colonoscopy repeat FIT at 10 years</li> </ul>  |  |   |
| 75-84 years  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Screening may be undertaken on an individualized basis in healthy individuals as above</li> </ul>  |  |   |
| Greater than 85 years  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Screening is not recommended; benefit is outweighed by risk</li> </ul>   |  |   |
| <b>Increased risk:</b>   |   |  |   |
| FH CRC <sup>a</sup>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Colonoscopy 10 years prior to the youngest affected relative at diagnosis, or at 40 years of age, whichever is the earliest</li> </ul>   |  |   |
| Longstanding (8+ years) inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) involving the colon   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Colonoscopy as directed by the specialist providing care</li> </ul>  |  |   |
| Family history of Hereditary Colorectal Cancer Syndrome – Hereditary Nonpolyposis Colon Cancer (HNPCC) or Familial Adenomatous Polyposis (FAP)   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to Hereditary Cancer Program at the BC Cancer Agency</li> <li>Review <a href="#">Hereditary Cancer Clinical Resources</a></li> </ul>   |  |  |
| RISK GROUP   | RECALL/FOLLOW-UP  |  | RESPONSIBILITY  |
| <b>Average risk:</b>   |   |  | <b>Recommendation</b>   |
| 50-74 years with negative colonoscopy (No FH CRC)  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At 10 years, resume FIT every 2 years</li> </ul>   |  | Colonoscopist   |
| Patients with hyperplastic polyps (those considered to have no malignant potential) <sup>b</sup>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At 10 years, resume FIT every 2 years</li> </ul>   |  | Colonoscopist   |
| 75-84 years  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Screening may be continued on an individualized basis in healthy individuals as above</li> </ul>   |  | Colonoscopist   |
| Greater than 85 years  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Screening is not recommended to continue; benefit is outweighed by risk</li> </ul>   |  |   |
| <b>Increased risk:</b>   |   |  | <b>Recommendation</b>   |
| Negative colonoscopy and FH CRC <sup>a</sup>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow-up colonoscopy in 5 years</li> </ul>  |  | Colonoscopist   |
| 1-4 <b>Low-Risk Lesions</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No FH CRC - follow-up colonoscopy in 10 years. If follow-up Colonoscopy in 10 years is normal, at 10 years, resume FIT every 2 years</li> <li>FH CRC - follow-up colonoscopy in 5 years</li> </ul>   |  | Colonoscopist   |
| 5-9 <b>Low-Risk Lesions</b><br><b>OR</b><br>1 or more <b>High-Risk Lesions</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow-up colonoscopy in 3 years provided complete adenoma removal</li> <li>If next follow-up colonoscopy shows 0-4 <b>Low-Risk Lesions</b>, follow-up colonoscopy in 5 years</li> <li>If subsequent colonoscopy is normal:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No FH CRC - in 10 years resume FIT every 2 years</li> <li>FH CRC - colonoscopy in 5 years</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |  | Colonoscopist   |
| 10 or more Lesions removed during single screening round   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow-up colonoscopy in 1 year provided complete adenoma removal</li> <li>Subsequent surveillance interval as for High-Risk Lesions</li> </ul>  |  | Colonoscopist   |
| Patients with piecemeal resection of a high-risk polyp where complete removal is uncertain   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow-up colonoscopy within 6 months to verify complete removal. Early colonoscopy may be recommended if residual precancerous tissue removed.</li> </ul>   |  | Colonoscopist   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Once complete removal established, subsequent surveillance interval as for <b>High-Risk Lesions</b></li> </ul>   |  | Colonoscopist   |
| Family history indicates HNPCC, FAP or other Hereditary Colorectal Cancer Syndrome   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Colonoscopy every 1-2 years</li> <li>Refer to Hereditary Cancer Program at the BC Cancer Agency</li> </ul>   |  | Colonoscopist   |
| Long standing (8+ years) inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) involving the colon  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As directed by the specialist providing care</li> </ul>  |  | Colonoscopist   |
| Post cancer resection  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patients with significant co-morbidities, very advanced age, or limited 5-year life expectancy not routinely offered surveillance</li> <li>If full colonoscopy has not been completed prior to cancer resection, complete cancer and polyp clearing colonoscopy should be performed within 12 months of surgical resection of CRC tumor</li> <li>After polyp clearing, follow-up colonoscopy at 1 year</li> <li>Further guidance in BC Colorectal Cancer Follow-up of Colorectal Polyps or Cancer</li> </ul> |  | Colonoscopist   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1-year colonoscopy normal - Colonoscopy in 3 years</li> <li>If 3-year colonoscopy normal - Colonoscopy in 5 years</li> <li>Repeat colonoscopy every 5 years thereafter</li> <li>After 1-year colonoscopy, intervals between colonoscopies may be shortened if evidence of HNPCC or adenoma findings warrant earlier colonoscopy</li> <li>For patients followed by colonoscopy, do not use FIT</li> </ul>   |  | Colonoscopist   |
| <b>FH</b> - Family History <b>CRC</b> - Colorectal Cancer <b>FDR</b> - First degree relative = brother, sister, parent, son, daughter  |   |  |   |
| <sup>a</sup> One FDR diagnosed with CRC under age 60, or 2 or more FDR diagnosed with CRC at any age.  |   |  |   |
| <sup>b</sup> Hyperplastic polyps with no malignant potential, e.g., small rectal hyperplastic polyps. Hyperplastic polyps with increased malignant potential, e.g., large right sided colonic hyperplastic, second review of histology by Histopathologist and Colonoscopist to make follow-up recommendations. When in doubt, discuss with Colonoscopist. |   |  |   |

Review by: December 2025