

## The implementation of the Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) across the South West

### August 2018 Project Update Bulletin

View the FIT video here: <https://youtu.be/zb1o8ykvS6U>

#### What's New?

**GP's across the South West now have access to the Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT).**

- Test kits have been distributed to nearly 600 GP Surgeries across the South West.
- The first tests have been processed and results passed to GP's.
- Metrics are now being recorded by the laboratories (see below).
- Patient experience surveys are live on the laboratory websites.
- The timetable and template for secondary care metrics was sent to cancer managers. Secondary Care metrics will focus on outcomes of positive fit referrals (how the patient was first seen and diagnosis / stage of cancer). First report available in September.
- Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust (RCHT) are undertaking a bespoke piece of work exploring how FIT for this group has affected referral into, and flow through, the 2WW system, co-ordinated by Mel Feldman, Consultant Colorectal Surgeon, RCHT.
- An in depth evaluation of the project will be undertaken by Professor Willie Hamilton and will incorporate an evaluation of the implementation and clinical practice.

#### Early Insights from the first month, across both Cancer Alliances (population of 4.5 million):

- 10,000 test kits have been issued to practices (4 months' supply each).
- Over 335 samples were received by the laboratories & 100% assayed on day of receipt.
- 49 samples were positive (14.6%).
- 281 samples were negative (83.9%).
- 5 samples were rejected (1.5%).
- 137 samples were from patients aged 50 to 60 with changes in bowel habit or iron deficiency anaemia (40.8%).
- 105 samples were from patients aged over 50 with unexplained abdominal pain or weight loss (31.3%).
- 82 samples were from patients aged 60 or over with anaemia without iron deficiency (24.5%).
- 30 samples provided no criteria (8.9%).

This data provides an early insight from the first month of implementation. There are a number of data limitations: This is a newly implemented test, and a 'bedding in' period is anticipated. We know that some practices have had test kits for longer than others. We know that some GP's had already identified patients for testing prior to receipt of test kits.

Contact [sarah-jane.davies@nhs.net](mailto:sarah-jane.davies@nhs.net) for further information.

- There have been a number of tests received by the labs with either no referral form, or incomplete form (criteria, requesting location, or QF number). We would like to take the opportunity to remind GPs to remove the form from the pack, complete and return it to the pack, and that the patient understands this should be sent with their sample. QF numbers can be sourced from your local laboratory or emailing [sarah-jane.davies@nhs.net](mailto:sarah-jane.davies@nhs.net). Please also note that the cohort for this test does not include patients <50 years old.
- We have also received a number of requests for extra test packs to be held in GP's rooms. Please note that we have provided guidance on how packs should be stored. These should be held centrally in the practice. This is to preserve shelf life and manage stock control.

**Project Update:** No new risks

#### Key project highlights from July

- Review of FIT costings / financial evaluation and timeline of project adjusted
- Distribution of test kits to nearly 600 GP practices.
- Access to test provided for military personnel within NG12 cohort.
- Reporting timetable and template designed, tested and provided to cancer managers.
- Reporting timetable and template produced for laboratories.
- GP experience survey finalised and methodology agreed.
- Equality impact assessment commenced.
- Evaluation specification discussed with Professor Willie Hamilton.
- Commissioner feedback mechanisms agreed.
- Further GP education events held at various locations across the South West.
- Patient representative for steering group identified.
- Methodology for capturing patient experience agreed.
- First data set analysed.
- Abstracts for posters and workshops drafted for Cancer Alliance shared learning event in September.
- Patient experience website now live.

#### Next Steps for August

- Review of patient information against accessibility standard and forward plan produced.
- Evaluation timetable and methodology mapped out (including evaluation of clinical practice, implementation methodology, user experience, VFM).
- Steering group and commissioner metrics reports drafted.
- GP user survey set up on survey monkey and qualitative data visits scheduled with practices.
- Patient experience survey (paper based).
- Patient representative induction to steering group.
- Project Q&A produced.
- Posters and workshops developed for Cancer alliance shared learning event.