

FIT Screening for Colorectal Cancer FAQs Sheet

Screening Overview

A screening test is used to look for a disease when a person does not have symptoms. When a person has symptoms, diagnostic tests are used to find out the cause of the symptoms.

Several screening tests can be used to find polyps or colorectal cancer. It is important to know that if your test result is positive or abnormal on some screening tests (stool tests, flexible sigmoidoscopy, and computed tomography colonography), a colonoscopy test is needed to complete the screening process.

What is colon cancer and why is screening important?

According to the American Cancer Society, colon cancer is an abnormal growth of cells in the colon or rectum that can invade nearby tissues or spread to other organs. Normally, colon cancer starts as a polyp (small growth) that gets larger over time. While not all polyps are cancerous, some do turn into cancer, which is why getting screened is so important.

What is OC-Auto® FIT by Polymedco?

Is a noninvasive, at-home, FDA-approved, fecal immune test (FIT) for colon cancer screening. Although a colonoscopy is the gold standard, a FIT test is an option for some people and must be done annually.

How does OC-Auto® FIT by Polymedco work?

The fecal immunochemical test (FIT), also called an immunochemical fecal occult blood test (iFOBT), is a mail in stool test that also detects occult (hidden) blood in the stool. It is also known as a hemmocult test.

What does a positive result mean?

If an OC-Auto® FIT test is positive, a screening colonoscopy will be needed to find the reason for the presence of blood. Although cancers and polyps can cause blood in the stool, there are other causes too. Ulcers, hemorrhoids, diverticulosis (tiny pouches that form at weak spots in the colon wall) or inflammatory bowel disease (colitis) may also cause blood in your stool. Also, unlike some other screening tests (including colonoscopy), this one must be repeated every year.

Is OC-Auto® Fit covered by insurance?

Most of the time, FIT tests are covered by insurance, even if you have not met your deductible. If positive, this test must be followed up with a colonoscopy. You are encouraged to check with your insurer for coverage.

Does insurance cover colonoscopy after positive FIT?

The Affordable Care Act requires all preventive screenings be covered by insurance companies with no cost-sharing for their members. A colonoscopy conducted after an abnormal stool test was often considered a diagnostic test by insurers. The cost of a diagnostic test can be a significant barrier to further testing and treatment. Starting May 31, 2022, insurance plans and issuers must provide no-cost coverage for follow-up colonoscopies. It is recommended you check with your insurer for benefit coverage.

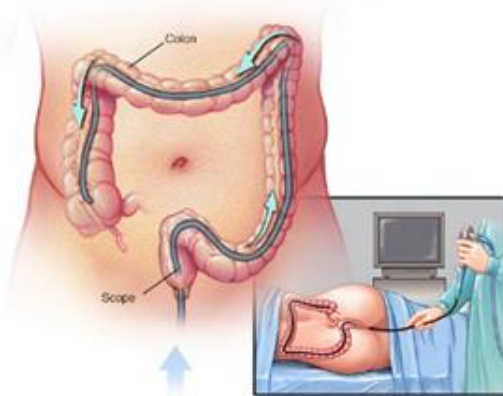
How do I get my OC-Auto® FIT screening results?

It typically takes two weeks from the date you ship back your FIT kit to get your results via letter. If your results are positive, a colonoscopy is recommended. You should contact your primary care provider to discuss your options.

What is a Colonoscopy?

A colonoscopy is an exam used to look for changes in the large intestine (colon) and rectum. During a colonoscopy, a long, flexible tube (colonoscope) is inserted into the rectum. A tiny video camera at the tip of the tube allows the doctor to view the inside of the entire colon.

If necessary, polyps or other types of abnormal tissue can be removed through the scope during a colonoscopy. Tissue samples (biopsies) can be taken during a colonoscopy. Also, a colonoscopy is used as a follow-up test if anything unusual is found during one of the other screening tests.



How do I schedule my colonoscopy?

Call **612-624-9709, option 2** to schedule.