STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE TEMPLATE · WAIVED TESTING AND POINT-OF-CARE TESTING

Fecal Occult Blood and FIT Testing

Governing requirement: 42 CFR 493.15(e) (follow manufacturer's instructions) and 493.1773-1775

Applies to: ☑ Waived ☐ Moderate complexity ☐ High complexity

Laboratory name		**CLIA number**	
Document number		**Version**	
Effective date		**Next review due**	
Author		**Department / section**	
Approved by (laboratory director)		**Director signature**	
Approval date		**Supersedes document**	

Important: Template only. Before use, this document must be reviewed, adapted to your laboratory's instruments, test systems and the manufacturer's instructions, and approved, signed and dated by the laboratory director. Check current federal, state and accreditation requirements. Not legal advice. Sound Lab Consultants is not affiliated with or endorsed by CMS, CDC, FDA, OSHA, CAP, COLA, The Joint Commission, CLSI or any manufacturer.

1. Purpose

To detect occult blood in stool.

2. Scope

[Testing sites] performing the Fecal Occult Blood and FIT Testing under the lab's CLIA certificate.

Testing sites	

3. Responsibility

- Testing personnel: follow the manufacturer's instructions exactly and document QC and results.
- Site supervisor / testing coordinator: trains staff, reviews logs and orders supplies.
- Laboratory director: approves the procedure and holds responsibility for the certificate.

4. Definitions

FIT: Fecal immunochemical test for human hemoglobin.

gFOBT: Guaiac-based test requiring developer.

5. Materials, equipment and records

- Test cards or FIT kit **[Kit and lot]**

Kit and lot	

- Developer (gFOBT)
- Patient instructions

6. Procedure

1. Give patient instructions, including diet and medication restrictions for gFOBT.

2. Test returned cards/samples within the stated stability.

3. gFOBT: apply developer, read at specified time, read on-slide performance monitor.

4. FIT: follow kit steps and read time.

5. Record results and on-card control results.

6. Do not use specimens collected from toilet water unless the kit allows.

7. Quality control

• Follow the laboratory's QC policy and the manufacturer's instructions; record QC before reporting patient results.

• Stop patient testing and take corrective action when QC or acceptance criteria are not met.

8. Interpretation, reporting and documentation

• Record the activity, date, result and initials on the form or log, and have the supervisor review records **[Review frequency]**.

Review frequency	

• Keep records per the record retention SOP (at least 2 years under 42 CFR 493.1105 unless a longer period applies).

9. Limitations and cautions

• Point-of-care testing of stool from a digital rectal exam is not recommended for colorectal cancer screening.

• This is a generic template. Adapt it to your instruments, test systems, manufacturer instructions, state law and accreditation standards before use.

10. References

• CDC, Ready? Set? Test! Patient testing is important (waived testing booklet) https://www.cdc.gov/clia/php/waived-tests/index.html

• CDC, Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) https://www.cdc.gov/clia/php/about/index.html

• FDA, CLIA test categorization database https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfClia/search.cfm

• Manufacturer's package insert, operator manual and safety data sheets for each test system in use

• eCFR, 42 CFR 493.15 https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-42/section-493.15

11. QC and patient testing log

Fill in electronically or print. Keep completed forms per the record retention policy.

Date	Kit lot / exp	Pos control	Neg control	Acceptable	Tech	Notes

12. Lab-specific notes

Notes and local requirements	

13. Revision history

Version	Date	Description of change	Author	Approved by

14. Annual review log

Procedures and changes must be approved, signed and dated by the current laboratory director before use (42 CFR 493.1251(d)).

Review date	Reviewed by	Signature	Changes needed (Y/N)	Comments

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