

Effective August 24, 2015

Fecal Occult Blood Test

To: Clients of UR Medicine Labs

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Starting August 24, 2015, UR Medicine Labs will be converting to a more sensitive fecal immunochemical test (FIT). The new Pinnacle FIT will replace the current Beckman Coulter ICT FIT being used at our outpatient facilities.

The main advantage of the new Pinnacle FIT is the improved sensitivity. The current Beckman Coulter ICT FIT is able to detect Hemoglobin levels at 300 µg/g stool while the new Pinnacle FIT can detect Hemoglobin levels at 6 µg/g of stool. Specificity is the same between the 2 FIT assays due to the reactivity to the globin portion of the red blood cells. By detecting globin, both assays are more specific for lower gastrointestinal bleeding. Since there is only 1 stool collection required for the new Pinnacle FIT (compared to 3 with the Beckman Coulter ICT FIT), the new assay will be easier for patients and should improve compliance.

As is the case now, kits will be distributed to provider offices. The new kits will contain the stool collection instructions, device and buffer, mailer and lab requisition. All completed kits will need to be sent to UR Medicine Labs for analysis.

Rollout for this program will start August 24 and will be coordinated with the Laboratory Outreach Department. Ordering forms, collection instructions and other educational information will be discussed during this 6 week start-up period. Please note that we will also begin to limit orders for the current Beckman Coulter ICT kit and will plan to swap out current kits for the new Pinnacle FIT kit during this 6 week rollout period. There will be a transitional period where both kits will be accepted, but the Beckman Coulter ICT cards will no longer be accepted for analysis after February 2016.

If you have any questions about the new FIT assay, please contact Dr. Fiscella or Dr. Kwong by any of the methods listed above.