

ColonCancerCheck FAQs for Pharmacists

ColonCancerCheck

BACKGROUND:

1. What is the ColonCancerCheck program?

In January 2007, the Ontario government, in collaboration with Cancer Care Ontario (CCO), introduced the first population-based provincial colorectal cancer screening program in Canada to decrease mortality from colorectal cancer through early detection and treatment.

2. Why screen for colorectal cancer?

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of death from cancer in Canada. In 2007, an estimated 7,800 Ontarians were diagnosed with colorectal cancer and 3,250 died from the disease. There is a 90% chance of curing colorectal cancer if detected early through regular screening, but only a 10% chance of survival if detected at an advanced stage. Regular (repeated) screening using Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) has been shown to decrease mortality from colorectal cancer by a minimum of 16%. According to 2007 data from the Cancer System Quality Index, only 17% of Ontarians aged 50 years or over have had a FOBT.

3. How will pharmacists be involved in ColonCancerCheck?

Beginning April 2008, pharmacists can help more Ontarians access colorectal cancer screening by distributing Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) take home kits to average risk Ontarians 50 years of age and over who are without a primary care provider (unattached patients). Based on recent surveys we know that less than 5% of Ontarians over 50 years of age are unattached, or without a regular primary care provider, which is less than 170,000 people.

ColonCancerCheck will support pharmacists in distributing the FOBT kit and providing information on the importance of colorectal cancer screening.

Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) kits will be primarily available from family physicians and other primary care providers such as nurse practitioners. To increase access to screening, FOBT kits will be available at participating pharmacies and Telehealth Ontario for ONLY those individuals without a primary care provider. FOBT kits will be provided to Ontarians at no charge.

Note: Increased colonoscopy access will also be available to Ontarians who are at increased risk (i.e. those with a history of colorectal cancer in a parent, sibling or child).

SCREENING:

4. Who is eligible to receive a FOBT kit at a pharmacy?

To be eligible to receive a FOBT kit from a pharmacy, an individual must meet all of the following criteria:

- Any Ontarian age 50 years and over with a valid Ontario Health Card
- Those without a family physician or primary care provider (unattached)
- Those at average risk of developing colorectal cancer i.e. no first-degree relatives (parent, sibling, child) diagnosed with colorectal cancer
- Those who have not had a colonoscopy within the past 10 years
- Those who have not completed a FOBT in the past two years.

Pharmacists are not required to recruit eligible individuals to participate in the program.

5. What if the individual is experiencing large bowel symptoms?

Do not provide FOBT kits to individuals with the following:

- Unexplained changes in bowel patterns
- Rectal bleeding
- Unexplained weight loss
- Urgent feeling to empty bowel
- Unexplained stool incontinence
- Unexplained anemia

The ColonCancerCheck program is intended to screen for cancer in asymptomatic Ontarians aged 50 years and over. Those experiencing one or more symptoms may require medical attention and must be directed to seek appropriate medical care.

6. What if the individual has a primary care provider?

Those with a primary care provider should be directed to obtain FOBT kits from their family physician or nurse practitioner to facilitate the provision of results and follow-up care.

Individuals who regularly use the service of a walk-in clinic (e.g. those who obtain monthly blood pressure medications from the same clinic) may obtain their FOBT kits from the clinic to facilitate provision of results and follow-up care.

7. What if the individual has a first degree relative diagnosed with colorectal cancer?

Individuals with first-degree relatives (parent, sibling, child) diagnosed with colorectal cancer should be referred to a physician for screening. They require alternative screening tests, such as a colonoscopy.

Those without a family physician should be referred to the ColonCancerCheck program at 1-866-662-9233 for referral to a primary care provider.

8. What if the individual has had a colonoscopy within the last ten years?

Individuals who have had a colonoscopy within the last ten years may not require a FOBT. At the time of the colonoscopy, the physician should have indicated when to repeat the colonoscopy. If they no longer have a physician, refer them to the ColonCancerCheck program for a subsequent referral to a primary care provider.

If the individual cannot remember when they last had a colonoscopy but meet other eligibility criteria described above, they may obtain a FOBT kit from pharmacy.

PROCESSES AND REMUNERATION:

9. How does an individual obtain a Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) kit from a pharmacy?

Ontarians aged 50 years and over without a primary care provider may obtain a FOBT requisition form at their community pharmacy to determine eligibility for the program. The FOBT requisition form includes five brief screening questions to determine eligibility. Participants need to answer “no” to all of the screening questions in order to be eligible to receive a FOBT at a pharmacy. Please refer to the tip sheet included with the FOBT requisition forms on where to redirect individuals who answer “yes” to any of the screening questions.

10. How does a pharmacist submit a FOBT claim?

Eligible participants are required to complete the FOBT requisition form and provide it to the pharmacist along with their Health Card. After the pharmacist has reviewed the requisition form for eligibility and completeness, an online FOBT claim can be submitted via the Health Network System (HNS). No software system changes are required.

A FOBT claim must be submitted on the Health Network System with the following information:

Participant Gender	“F” = female, “M” = male
Participant Date of Birth	YYYYMMDD
Participant Health Card #	As noted on Health Card
Product Identification Number (PIN):	“93899960” = FOBT PIN
Intervention code	“PS” = Professional Care Service “ML” = Eligibility established – Standard coverage
Carrier ID	“G” = ColonCancerCheck Plan Code
Pharmacist’s ID code	Pharmacist License #
FOBT Fee	\$7.00

11. What should pharmacists do with the FOBT requisition form?

After submitting the online FOBT claim, pharmacists are asked to affix the prescription label on the FOBT requisition form and ensure completeness of the form prior to signing it. The prescription label provides details to the participating laboratory in case the information on the FOBT requisition form is unclear. You may be contacted by the participating laboratory staff to clarify details on the FOBT form or if the form is not completely filled out. ColonCancerCheck will use the information on the FOBT requisition form to follow up with the participant on test results.

The Pharmacy ID, as requested on the FOBT requisition form, is the unique identification number assigned to your pharmacy. It is the ten digit Canadian Pharmacists’ Association (CPhA) number for accredited community pharmacies that begins with “ON”. You may wish to note your Pharmacy ID on the tip sheet attached to the pad of requisition forms for quick and easy referencing. When preparing the prescription label to affix to the FOBT requisition form, you may wish to record your Pharmacy ID (ON#) in the “Directions for Use” field. Otherwise, the number must be recorded manually on the bottom right hand side of the form.

The FOBT kit must be provided to the individual together with the completed and signed requisition form. Once the FOBT test is completed at home, the kit together with the requisition form may be dropped off at a participating laboratory or mailed to the laboratory in the pre-paid self-addressed envelope provided. Completed FOBT kits should NOT be returned to the pharmacy.

12. What is inside the ColonCancerCheck FOBT kit?

The kit includes easy-to-follow instructions, a privacy statement, an expiration date, a leak-proof envelope to protect the sample, and a pre-paid postage and addressed return envelope.

13. Where can pharmacies obtain additional FOBT requisition forms (form #4533-84)?

Additional [FOBT requisition forms](#) for a participant receiving a FOBT from a pharmacy can be printed from the web at [ColonCancerCheck.ca](#) or by faxing the fulfillment form (included with patient brochure mailing) to 1-416-314-8721. Blank forms may be photocopied for use as well.

14. What if the unattached participant's first test is inconclusive and the participant is requesting another kit?

If the test is either incomplete or could not be read, the participant will be sent a letter by the program directing them to a pharmacy or to Telehealth Ontario to obtain another FOBT kit. If the participant presents at a pharmacy requesting a retest kit, pharmacists can provide another FOBT requisition form with a new FOBT kit and submit another FOBT claim.

15. How often can FOBT kits be distributed to the same individuals?

Participants at average risk should be screened with FOBT every two years. Once an individual has completed one ColonCancerCheck FOBT, the ColonCancerCheck program will automatically send a reminder to the individual to be retested in two years.

In the case where the individual has lost or damaged their FOBT kit, pharmacists can provide another kit and submit another FOBT claim. The completed FOBT will still need to be sent to the participating laboratory with a completed requisition form. If the previously completed requisition form is still available, please affix a new pharmacy prescription label with the new date of dispensing. A new FOBT requisition form will need to be completed if the previous one is no longer available (e.g. lost or damaged).

RESULTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION:

16. How will participants without a primary care physician receive their results?

For participants with a negative FOBT, the ColonCancerCheck program will send them a letter informing them of their results. They will also be reminded by the program to take the test again in another two years.

For unattached patients with a positive FOBT, the program will arrange an appointment with a family physician to facilitate follow-up care which may include a referral for colonoscopy. A positive FOBT does not mean that the participant has cancer, as 10% of participants with a positive result in one window will have cancer.

If a participant has not heard from the program about their results within a month of completing the test, the participant should call 1-866-662-9233.

17. What if a participant presents at the pharmacy asking about their results?

Participants wishing to inquire about their results should be directed to contact ColonCancerCheck at 1-866-662-9233.

18. Who do I contact for additional information?

For additional information about ColonCancerCheck, please contact the program at 1-866-662-9233 or visit [ColonCancerCheck.ca](#).