

How does the FIT work?

This is a test to find blood in the stool that is not visible to the naked eye. The test is done in the privacy of your home using a test kit. The sample is then dropped off at a medical laboratory or mailed at a Canada Post retail outlet in the supplied postage-paid envelope.

What are the benefits of the FIT?

Taking the FIT test every two years will help find colorectal cancer early, when treatment is most effective. This simple test can be done in your home. There are no diet restrictions, and medication and vitamins will not interfere with the results. You will need to provide only one sample with the FIT, unlike other fecal occult blood tests that require three samples.

What happens after the test?

The lab will analyze your test and forward the results to the SPCRC. The SPCRC will send the results to you and your family doctor.



What does a normal result mean?

A normal result means that blood was not found in your stool. The test should be repeated every two years. As part of the screening program, you will receive another letter and a test kit in two years time.

What does an abnormal result mean?

An abnormal result means that blood was found in your stool. The SPCRC will send the results to your family doctor who will contact you about appropriate follow-up care, which may include diagnostic testing such as a colonoscopy. Results from any diagnostic tests will also be sent to the SPCRC to assist with program monitoring.

What if I do not have a family doctor?

You can still participate in the program if you do not have a family doctor. We encourage you to check with your health region for a list of doctors that are currently accepting new patients.

For more information contact the
Screening Program for Colorectal Cancer
400-2631 28th Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 6X3
Phone: 1-800-667-0017

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PROGRAM
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Why is colorectal cancer screening important?

Colorectal cancer, also known as colon or bowel cancer, is the second most commonly diagnosed form of cancer in men and women. It is also the second leading cause of cancer death in Saskatchewan. It often develops with few, if any, early warning symptoms.

With screening, early signs of colorectal cancer can be detected and treated successfully.

What is the Screening Program for Colorectal Cancer (SPCRC)?

It is a population-based screening program of the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency for the prevention and early detection of colorectal cancer. The Agency also operates the Screening Program for Breast Cancer and the Prevention Program for Cervical Cancer.

Who is invited to participate in the SPCRC?

In phase one of the program we will invite people who:

- are residents of the Five Hills Health Region who have a valid Saskatchewan health card
- are between the ages of 50 and 74
- have not been diagnosed with colorectal cancer



Can someone get screened if they are not from the Five Hills Health Region?

All Saskatchewan residents have access to screening for colorectal cancer. We encourage you to discuss colorectal cancer risk factors and screening options with your family doctor.

How am I going to be invited?

The SPCRC will send letters and home-based test kits to eligible participants, based on information provided by the Ministry of Health. People in the Five Hills Health Region will be invited to participate over the next two years.

An invitation letter will be mailed to you based on your birth month and odd/even birth year (e.g. if you were born in September 1949, which is an odd year, you will receive an invitation in September 2009).



How is my medical and personal information going to be protected?

All organizations and health professionals with access to health information are bound by *The Health Information Protection Act* (HIPA) and have signed confidentiality agreements. The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency and the SPCRC have administrative procedures and technical and physical security in place to protect information from unauthorized use or access.

If you do not want to participate in the program and do not want to be contacted again, please fill out the opt-out form that is available at www.saskcancer.ca or by contacting the SPCRC.

What type of test will be used to screen for colorectal cancer?

A fecal immunochemical test (FIT) will be used. Participants will receive the test in the mail with a participant form approximately three weeks after they receive the initial invitation letter.

If the SPCRC has not received a response from you after six weeks, a reminder letter will be sent out.