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Chief Executives NHS Boards

Copied to Medical Directors

Dear Colleague

2 July 2020

**QUANTITATIVE FAECAL IMMUNOCHEMICAL TESTING (qFIT)**

I am writing to inform you that new guidance was published on 1 July 2020 on the use of quantitative faecal immunochemical testing (qFIT) in symptomatic patients.

This clinical guidance has been developed in collaboration with Gastroenterologists, Colorectal Consultants and Primary Care Clinicians to provide a framework for the use of quantitative faecal immunochemical testing (qFIT) for faecal haemoglobin (f-Hb) to support clinical triage and ensure that investigation of patients with colorectal symptoms can be targeted to those with the highest risk of colorectal cancer. This guidance has been developed for use now and during the recovery period following COVID and will be kept under review.

I would encourage this letter to be issued to your GPs and ask that they consider qFIT in their referral route for Colonoscopy where it is available. In the recovery phase following the current pandemic, repeating FIT testing of patients already on the waiting list may help with prioritisation.

It is essential that this framework is adopted as it will support timely investigations given current constraints on service capacity. This guidance should be implemented and used to ensure patients are placed on the correct pathway as quickly as possible should they need to be seen or if further investigation or treatment is required.

I would like to thank you and your teams for the continued commitment to delivering cancer services as a clinical priority.

Yours sincerely



**JOHN CONNAGHAN CBE**

Interim Chief Executive NHSScotland