

# New service provision for Symptomatic FIT testing

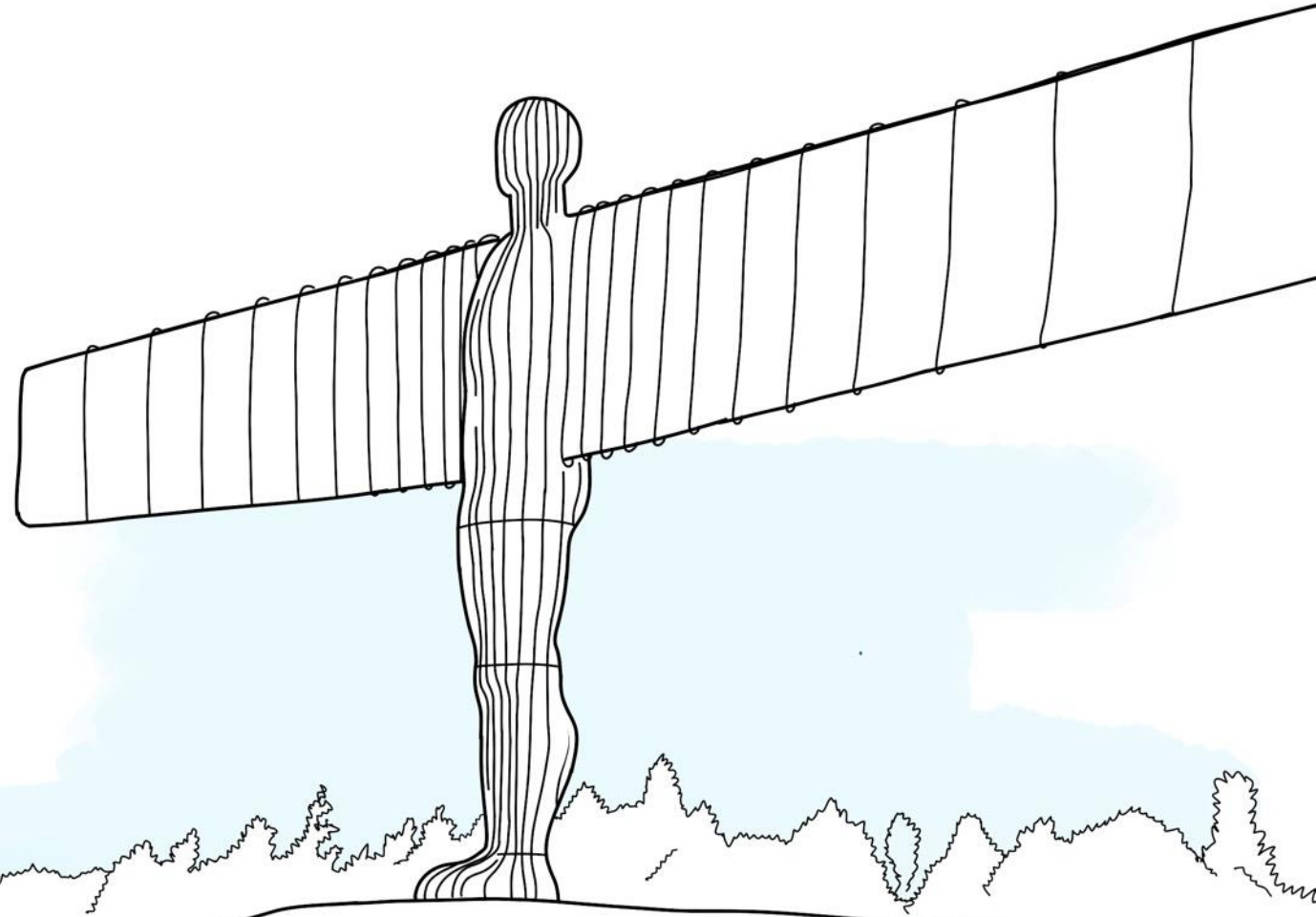
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Lead for Symptomatic FIT testing & Director of NE Bowel  
Cancer Screening Hub

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023



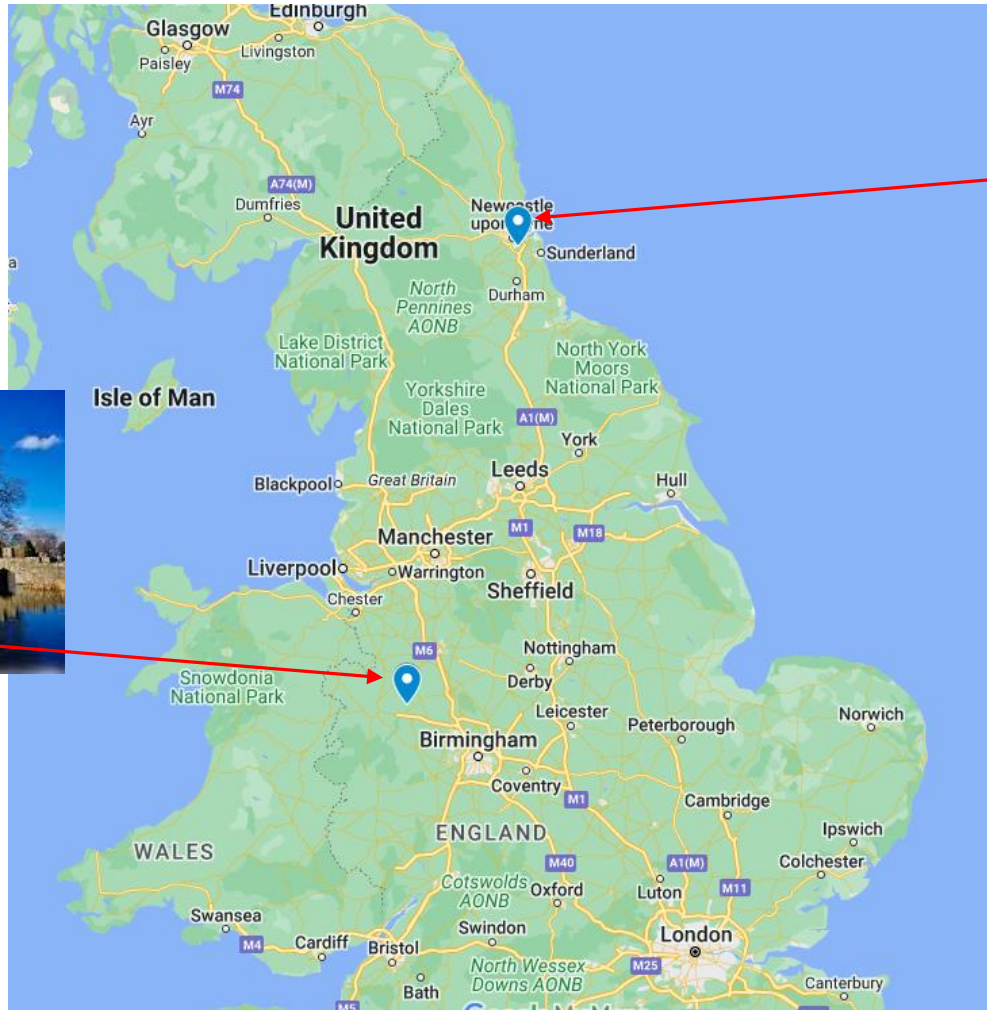
# Aims

- Process for ordering a FIT test
- Management of FIT pack stock
- How to complete the FIT test
- Results & Failsafe
- Timescales for implementation

# Who are Clinical Pathology Services, Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust?



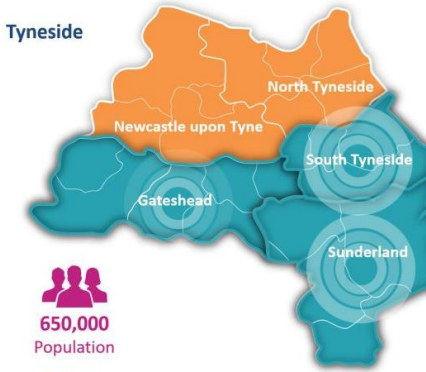
**Gateshead Health**  
NHS Foundation Trust



Shropshire,  
Telford &  
Wrekin



Tyneside



650,000  
Population  
3 CCGs



600 beds



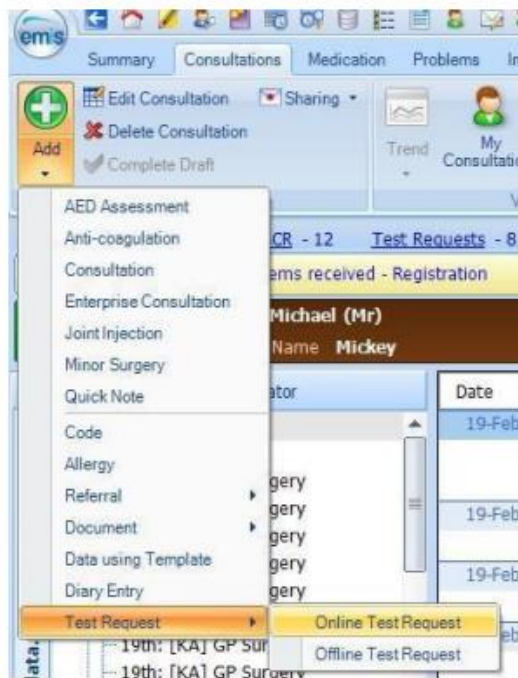
300 beds



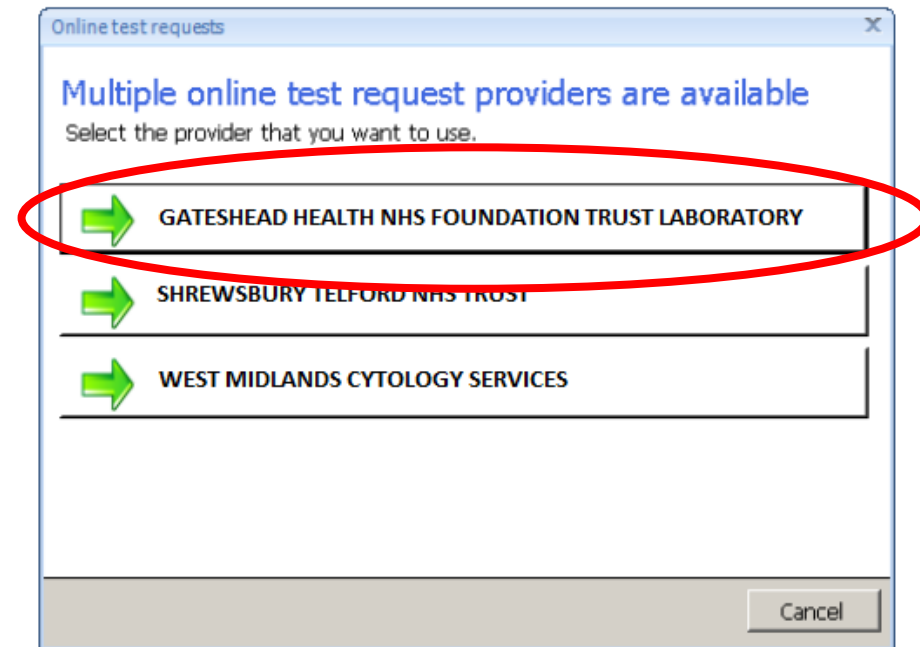
900 beds

# Process for ordering a FIT test (1)

- FIT test is ordered electronically using ICE system – electronic requesting & reporting
  - Accessed through your GP clinical system (EMIS/Vision)
  - Provider = Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust Laboratory



Choose provider





# Process for ordering a FIT test (2)

- Taken directly to the GSS ICE ordering page
- Patient demographics will automatically be populated
- Select FIT test and then select “Continue with Request”

Patient Name: **Mrs Test Tester**      Hospital Number: **ICE197012**      Sex: **Female**  
 Date of Birth: **01 January 1965**      NHS Number: **No NHS Number**  
 Address: **1 No Street, No Town, SR3 2AN**      Telephone No:

[<< Back](#)      A81001 - The Densham Surgery  
[View Details](#)      User: caroline.addison

QEH Screening      Symptomatic FIT

Symptomatic FIT      KEY

SFIT Testing       **Symptomatic FIT**

STW SFIT

Search

Set as Default Panel

**Symptomatic FIT Clinical Contact Details**

Telephone **0191 445 6311**

Email **ghnt.fit.results@nhs.net**

**IT Queries**

Telephone **0191 445 6504**

Email **ghnt.pathsupport@nhs.net**

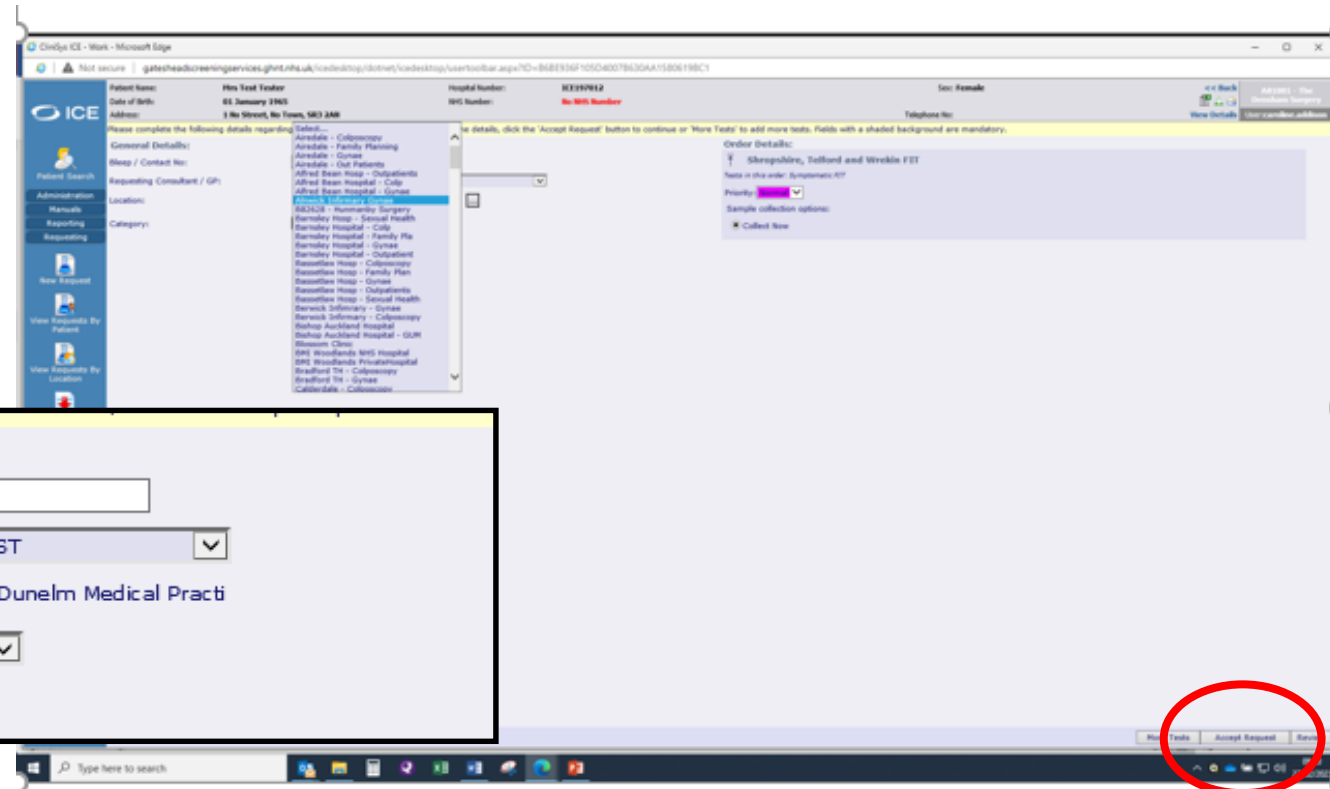
Continue with request...

Most recent requests made for this patient:

To view all requests for this patient, [click here.](#)  
 To view records of the tests on this panel only made for this patient, [click here.](#)

# Process for ordering a FIT test (3)

- Select requesting clinician and location from the drop down list
  - Should default to you & your practice
- Then accept request



**General Details:**

Bleep / Contact No:

Requesting Consultant / GP:

Location:

Category:

# Troubleshooting

- Gateshead ICE uses internet explorer
  - Can cause problems due to compatibility issues
  - CSU has rolled out IE compatibility fix – however may need workstations to be rebooted
    - If error message appears first time you access system, then restart

# Process for ordering a FIT test (4)

- Once the FIT test has been ordered – a label will be printed
  - On the label paper that is used for current pathology blood tests
- The label should be placed on to the FIT device lengthways
- The space for the date of sample collection MUST not be covered
  - Sample collection date MUST be provided
  - **No sample collection date – no analysis**

Patient MUST write  
sample collection  
date on kit

Label  
MUST be  
placed on  
BLANK  
SIDE of kit





# Troubleshooting

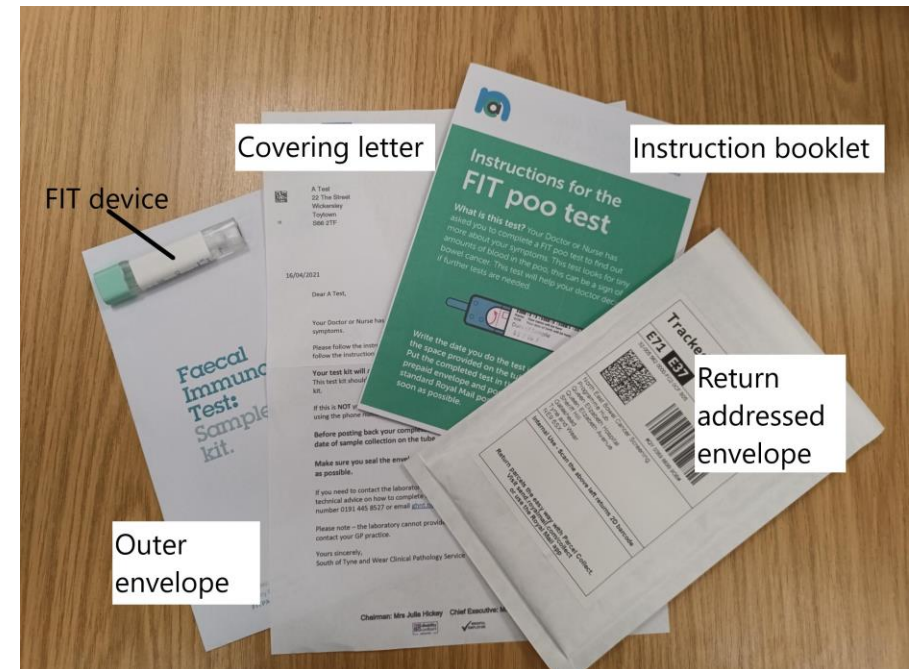
- Need to check the printer tray being used
  - Plan is to for FIT labels to default to correct tray but this will not be in place by 3<sup>rd</sup> April
  - When printing labels, need to ensure that correct tray is selected

## Process for ordering a FIT test (5)

- Label must be applied to the FIT device that is in a FIT pack before giving to the pack to the patient
  - Unlabelled samples cannot be processed by the laboratory
- Once ICE label has been applied to the FIT device, place the FIT device back into the pack
- Give FIT pack to the patient
- The patient must return the completed kit directly to the laboratory for testing **as soon as possible**
  - Return addressed envelope is provided in the FIT pack
  - Can use any Royal Mail post box
  - Sample stability – 14 days. Remind patient to provide sample collection date
    - No sample collection date – no analysis

# Managing FIT stock (1)

- Stock of FIT packs will be kept in each GP practice
  - FIT packs contain a cover letter, instructions, a FIT test kit and a return addressed envelope.
- The laboratory has an automatic stock replenishment programme.
  - Stock will be automatically replaced by the Gateshead laboratory based on the number of FIT orders placed by the practice.
  - Branch practices – stock delivered to main practice.
    - Main practice responsible for transfer & rotation of this stock



## Managing FIT stock (2)

- The FIT devices have an expiry date and **MUST** not be used after this date
  - Expiry date is provided on the cover letter in each pack
  - Can be clearly seen through envelope window
  - **DO NOT** take FIT devices from other packs
- The practice will need to do a regular check of FIT packs to ensure no expired kits are used and these are replaced by the laboratory

Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) Pack

**DO NOT USE AFTER  
31<sup>st</sup> MAY 2024**

Shropshire, Telford  
and Wrekin

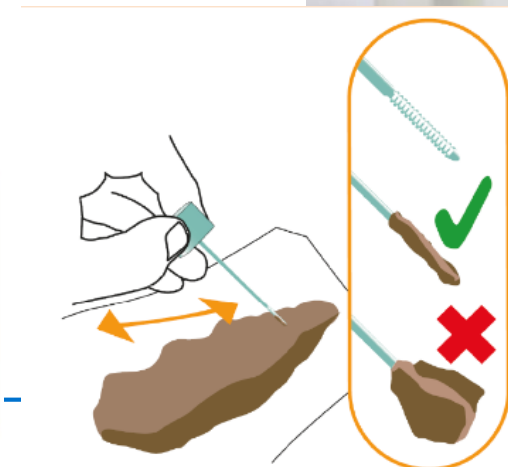
Supplied by:

Gateshead Health  
NHS Foundation Trust

**DEAR DOCTOR - PLEASE NOTE:** You **MUST** order a FIT test using the GSS ICE electronic ordering system and apply corresponding ICE label to the FIT test kit **BEFORE** handing over to the patient.

# Advice on how to complete FIT test

- It is important that the stool sample does not go into the toilet water
- Avoid urination at same time
  - Use several layers of folded toilet paper or a paper plate
  - Catch the stool or poo in a clean, disposable container
- Twist top off the tube – do not remove any liquid
- Scrap the end of the stick along the poo
  - Only need a small amount of poo!
- Replace stick into tube – ensure ‘clicks’



# Advice on how to complete FIT test (2)

- Additional support is available
  - Helpline and email for Patients:
    - 0191 445 8527
    - [ghnt.nefit@nhs.net](mailto:ghnt.nefit@nhs.net)
  - For GPs
    - 0191 445 8527
    - [ghnt.FIT.orders@nhs.net](mailto:ghnt.FIT.orders@nhs.net)
- Instructions available in different formats
  - Large print
  - Electronically
  - Video <https://youtu.be/nIBCslm-BBc>
  - Other languages
- Sample collection guide available to aid collection
  - For patients with visual impairment and dexterity issues



# Results & Failsafe messages

- Results will be available in your primary care clinical system
  - As per your standard pathology results
  - Also be available in the GSS ICE system
- TAT approx. 48hours or 2 working days after the test is received in laboratory
- To aid safety netting- lab will issue a failsafe alert if a completed test has not been received
  - 7 days & 14 days (final reminder)
  - Contact patient & support them to complete the test
- The failsafe alert will be available in your primary care clinical system

# Symptomatic vs Screening

- Reminder!

## Screening FIT is NOT the same as Symptomatic FIT

- Screening FIT = HIGH threshold for further investigations (120ug/g)
- Symptomatic FIT = LOW threshold for further investigations (10ug/g)
- Patient may have Normal/Negative screening FIT test – but may test positive/abnormal on symptomatic FIT
- Patients with Lower GI symptoms should NOT be referred to screening
- [england\\_key\\_differences\\_infographic\\_2021.pdf](https://cancerresearchuk.org/infographic/england-key-differences-infographic-2021) ([cancerresearchuk.org](https://cancerresearchuk.org))

**For health professionals**

Together we will beat cancer

**Key things to know about FIT**  
England version

The Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) is a type of faecal occult blood test used to detect traces of human blood in stool samples. It is being used:

- In Screening**
  - As the primary test in the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme (BCSP)
  - For people aged 60–74 years every 2 years. People aged over 74 can request a kit\*
  - The threshold for determining a positive result is set at 120ug Hb/g faeces
- In Primary and Secondary care**
  - As a test to guide the management of patients
  - For people who present symptomatically\*
  - The threshold for determining a positive result is lower than BCSP (normally 10ug Hb/g faeces)

**Screening pathway**

- Screening hub sends kit to eligible individuals by post
- Individual completes and returns kit by post to screening hub
- Screening hub sends result to individual by post. GPs are informed of all results electronically
- Continue to be eligible for screening every two years
- Invited for further tests (usually colonoscopy)
- If a patient's screening result is negative and they develop symptoms they should be offered a symptomatic FIT test by their GP.

**Symptomatic pathway**

**Primary care investigation**

- FIT is offered to people who present with symptoms
- Kit is given out by the GP<sup>1</sup> or sent to the patient by the lab on GP request
- Patient completes and returns kit to GP practice or nominated lab\*
- GP<sup>2</sup> will be given a result which may include a numerical value and communicates it to the patient
- May still warrant further investigation depending on symptoms and clinical judgement (could consider repeat FIT)
- GP refers patient to specialist pathway\*

**Triage in Secondary Care**

- GP refers people with symptoms to a specialist
- GP or specialist<sup>3</sup> gives kit to symptomatic patient
- Patient completes and returns kit to nominated lab\*
- Specialist receives the result and communicates it to the patient
- Result fed into clinical triage and patient may still warrant further investigation depending on symptoms and clinical judgement
- Result sent into clinical triage and further investigation

**\*Be aware to check local pathways - Check locally what procedures are in place to support additional kits**

For further information visit [cruk.org/primary-care-investigations](https://cruk.org/primary-care-investigations) or to give feedback contact [earlydiagnosis@cancer.org.uk](mailto:earlydiagnosis@cancer.org.uk)

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# Timescales for implementation

- Trading partner details to be set up in each GP Practice to allow receipt of results electronically
  - Must be completed by **24<sup>th</sup> March 2023**
- Request access to GSS ICE system
  - One form per user
  - Send to [ghnt.FIT.orders@nhs.net](mailto:ghnt.FIT.orders@nhs.net)
  - Completed forms must be received by **24<sup>th</sup> March 2023**
  - Login will be provided – EMIS / Vision administrator to add to the Gateshead screening services online test requesting credentials.
- FIT pack stock will be provided from Monday 27th March 2023
  - Practice manager will be contacted to advise of expected delivery date
- Go Live for new service **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023**

Please Complete in Block Capitals and return this form to [ghnt.fit.orders@nhs.net](mailto:ghnt.fit.orders@nhs.net)  
Please note all sections are mandatory and failure to complete will result in the form being returned to sender for completion.  
The Gateshead Screening Services (GSS) ICE System holds Symptomatic FIT request and result information as generated by GP practices in the Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin ICB.

#### User Details

Name:			
Job Title:			
GMC/NMC Code:		GMP/GNC Code:	
Email Address:		Contact Number:	
Practice or Department and Trust Name:			
Primary Care only – Practice Code:			

#### Tick as Required

New Gateshead Screening Services ICE Logon required	
Amendment to existing Gateshead Screening Services Logon (state logon name)	
Staff Leaver	
Start Date	End Date

#### Tick Profile Required

SHROPSHIRE PROFILE 01 – Symptomatic FIT	
SHROPSHIRE PROFILE 02 – Symptomatic FIT Result only access	
SHROPSHIRE PROFILE 03 – Symptomatic FIT Proxy requestor (i.e. locums)	

#### User Confidentiality:

- > I confirm the requirements for access to the GSS ICE Order Communications System for Symptomatic FIT as indicated above.
- > I will comply with the Data Protection Act of 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018 and will not disclose my password to anyone or disclose any data to which I have access, inappropriately.
- > I will adhere to my Code of Conduct/NHS Confidentiality Code of Practice and only access patient records for which I have a legitimate relationship.
- > I understand that unauthorised access to any NHS IT system is a criminal offence under Computer Misuse Act 1990 and could lead to prosecution
- > I understand that access will not be granted until training has been given on the system.
- > I understand that any breach of Patient confidentiality or system misuse may result in disciplinary action being taken against me.
- > I understand that any issues/incidents regarding the ICE Order Communications System will be reported immediately 0191 445 8527.

User Signature ..... Date .....

Practice/Departmental Administrator Signature .....

I confirm that the above member of staff requires access to the ICE Order Communications System as part of their role within the organisation stated above and that they have received the necessary training relating to Information Governance.

# Thank you for listening

## Any questions?

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