

ColonCancerCheck

Expiry of Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) Kits February 2011, May 2011 and July 2011 Colorectal Cancer Screening Program

To: FAMILY PHYSICIANS and NURSE PRACTITIONERS

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The ColonCancerCheck (CCC) Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) kit, as with most medical devices, has an expiry date. The expiry date is found on the bottom of the FOBT card on the side that says "Do Not Open". Kits received by a community laboratory after the expiration date will not be processed.

The first batch of CCC FOBT kits, distributed in 2008, show an expiry date of February 2011. This means that if one of these kits is received by a community laboratory after the last day of the month (i.e. February 28, 2011), it will be rejected by the laboratory.

The second batch of CCC FOBT kits distributed in 2008 have an expiry date of May 2011, and the third batch have an expiry date of July 2011.

Patients who submit an expired kit for processing will be advised by mail from ColonCancerCheck that the kit has expired and that they will need to repeat the test with a valid kit. Patients will be advised to obtain a replacement kit from their family physician or nurse practitioner, or from Telehealth Ontario or their local pharmacy if they do not have a family physician or nurse practitioner.

What do you need to do?

1. **Check your current inventory** of FOBT kits to ensure that they are not expired or about to expire. The expiry date of your kits should be at least three months away to allow time for the kit to be completed and returned for testing.
2. **Dispose of any kits which are expired or will expire in three months or less.** Kits which expire in February should be disposed of now. CCC FOBT kits do not contain hazardous materials. You may throw away the kits in your garbage and/or recycle the pieces in the kits as is appropriate for your community.
3. **Point out the expiry date to patients when you give them a CCC FOBT kit.** Ask them to complete the kit at least a month before the kit expires. Explain that the kit will not be processed if it has expired.
4. **Reorder new CCC FOBT kits as needed.** Order kits through your community laboratory supplier (http://health.gov.on.ca/en/ms/coloncancercheck/pro/order_fobt_kits.aspx).
5. **If a patient informs you that they have an expired kit,** please make it as easy as possible for them to get a replacement kit. Screening for colorectal cancer can save lives. Thank you for your assistance!

Questions? Contact the Service Ontario INFOline at 1-866-410-5853 or email ColonCancerCheck.moh@ontario.ca.



ColonCancerCheck

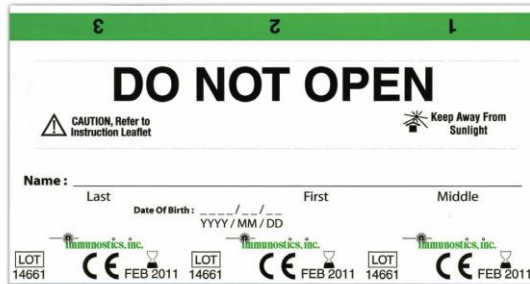
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the shelf-life of ColonCancerCheck Fecal Occult Blood Tests?

ColonCancerCheck Fecal Occult Blood Tests (FOBTs) have a shelf-life of three years.

2. How can I tell what the expiry date is on a ColonCancerCheck Fecal Occult Blood Test kit?

The expiry date is found on the bottom of the FOBT card on the site that says "Do Not Open".



The kit is expired at the end of the month listed as the expiry date. For example, if the expiry date on the kit is February 2011, the kit is expired as of February 28, 2011.

3. Some of my patients may have an expired ColonCancerCheck Fecal Occult Blood Test kit at home. If they complete it, will the test still be processed by the laboratory?

No, as per Health Canada standards, laboratories will not process a ColonCancerCheck FOBT kit once it has expired. For example, FOBT kits with an expiry date of February 2011 arriving at the laboratories on or after March 1, 2011 will not be tested.

The laboratory will notify the family physician or nurse practitioner that the test was rejected and needs to be repeated. Patients will receive a letter from ColonCancerCheck advising them to obtain a replacement kit from their family physician or nurse practitioner, or from Telehealth Ontario or their local pharmacy if they do not have a family physician or nurse practitioner.

4. Should patients be reminded to complete the kits?

If your records show you have patients who received but did not complete an FOBT, it is recommended that you contact them to remind them about completing the test. In February and March 2011, ColonCancerCheck is launching a Screening Activity Report initiative to physicians in Patient Enrolment Models. This new report will show patients who received but have not completed their FOBT.

5. If kits are expiring at end of February, end of May and end of July, when is the last date I can dispense them respectively?

- Expiry date of February 2011 – please dispose of these kits
- Expiry date of May 2011 – dispense by end of February 2011
- Expiry date of July 2011 – dispense by end of April 2011

6. Do non-ColonCancerCheck kits have an expiry date as well?

Yes, non-ColonCancerCheck kits also have an expiry date. Family physicians and nurse practitioners should also check their inventory of non-ColonCancerCheck FOBTs and ensure that patients have enough time to complete and submit the kit to the laboratory for processing.