Faecal occult blood testing in the Auckland community – Update Monday 3rd August

Further to our Laboratory Operational Update dated 7th July and the Scope article dated 18th July, I would like to clarify the following with respect to eligibility for immunochemical faecal occult blood (iFOB) testing in the community.

Labtests will not be making iFOB collection kits available to people who meet the Bowel Screening Waitemata eligibility criteria for participation.

The Waitemata bowel screening pilot offers iFOB testing for people who are:

- residing in the Waitemata District Health Board catchment area
- aged between 50 and 74 years
- asymptomatic

I would also like to clarify the referral process for patients with a family history of colorectal cancer. These patients should be referred to DHB gastroenterological services without FOB testing.

Further consideration of the role of FOB testing in the community outside of the Waitemata pilot program will be discussed with the MOH and Auckland and Northland region DHBs. I will update you on any proposed changes.

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