

# Use of Faecal Immunochemical Testing (FIT) Kits - Ordering and Stockpiling Guidance

Practices have likely noticed the increase in communications about the use of FIT in primary care, and inclusion of FIT results on suspected lower GI cancer referrals. Further information on the use of FIT, and how primary care is supported in this, can be found [here](#).

In order to ensure a reliable supply of FIT kits in practice, please consider the following advice:

1. **20 FIT kits per practice** site can be ordered from ViaPath via the online portal **weekly**. Weekly limits ensure a secure supply chain across SEL. If a partnership has multiple sites, you are able to order **per practice site** e.g 40 kits for a two practice partnership.
2. Data collected by SEL shows that all practices have a rate of FIT kit usage lower than the current weekly limit. 90% of practices use < 10 kits per week.
3. However, use will obviously fluctuate from week to week and so it is **recommended a *small* stockpile is maintained** at practices to ensure ready access.
4. FIT kits should have a shelf life of 6-12months when received but be sure to check this on your current supply of kits. It is **essential that practices cycle through this stockpile**, using the kits due to expire sooner first, to avoid kits expiring and going to waste.
5. It is recommended that a practice **stockpile approximately 40-60 kits** (i.e. ~4weeks of use). You will have to **build a stockpile slowly up over time** due to the set weekly limit. For example, practices using 10 per week could order 20 per week over 6-8 weeks to achieve an adequate stockpile.