XV. Fecal Occult Blood			
Effective Date: 10/2013	Reviewed:	Review Month: May	*Discontinue Date:*

Policy:
Rusk State Hospital uses the Hemoccult to screen patients for blood in the stool. This test will be used for evaluation of patients in urgent situations. (i.e. suspected acute blood loss, lower GI bleed)

Principle:
The Hemoccult test allows for the rapid detection of blood in the stool. It is based on the oxidation of guaiac by hydrogen peroxide to a blue-colored compound. This test is used as a screen and is not intended to replace the other more definitive diagnostic procedures.

Responsibility:
- It is the responsibility of the laboratory and designated nursing staff to perform fecal occult blood testing. Providers or nurses are to obtain specimens.
- Routine fecal occult blood tests are sent to Regional Clinic Laboratory at Austin for testing.
- The lab manager will supervise this waived testing procedure in the Medical Clinic by yearly competencies and Q&A.
- Each/any new designated staff shall be provided training on this policy and the procedures for performance and supervision.

Supplies:
1. Hemoccult Test Cards
2. Applicator Sticks
3. Hemoccult Developer
4. PPE: Gloves and Gown

Reagent Storage and Stability:
Store Test Cards and Developer at controlled room temperature (15-30 degrees C). Do not use past expiration date.

Specimen Type and Collection:
A small fecal specimen is an appropriate sample. Collect in clean, dry container. Universal precautions must be followed when collecting or handling patient specimens.

Test Procedure: <u>Document all results on the waived test log.</u>
1. Gather necessary supplies, wash hands, apply gown, and gloves.
2. Verify correct specimen with 2 patient identifiers.
3. Check expiration date of test card.
4. Label test card with patient name. Apply a thin smear of fecal material to Box A.
5. Reuse applicator to obtain second sample from a different part of feces. Apply thin smear to Box B.
6. Close flap and dispose of applicator.

7. Wait three (3) minutes to allow time for specimen to penetrate test paper on card.
8. Open back of card and apply two (2) drops of Developer directly over each smear (A and B).
9. Read results within sixty (60) seconds. Any BLUE on or at the edge of the smear is Positive.
10. Add one (1) drop of Developer between the Positive (+) and Negative (-) Quality Control at the bottom of the Test Card.
11. Read results within ten (10) seconds. Positive will appear Blue and Negative will have no color.

Interpretation of Patient Results:

- Positive: The appearance of ANY shade of blue within 60 seconds in the test area is regarded as a Positive result. Patient will be evaluated by the provider as to the need for further follow-up.
- Negative: No development of blue within 60 seconds indicates a Negative result. Expected Range is Negative.

Reporting Results:

1. Document test results on laboratory order and notify provider.
2. Fax report to Med Clinic and the patient's unit.
3. Document all actions taken with time/date/initials.

Quality Control:

The Quality Control feature of the card provides assurance that the guaiac –treated paper and developer are functional. Once initial testing is complete, the kit is monitored with each use. If the Quality control areas do not react as expected, the test results should be regarded as invalid. Do not use cards and developer beyond expiration dates which appear on each.

Limitations:

- This test is a rapid, convenient and qualitative method for detecting fecal occult blood which may be indicative of gastrointestinal disease. It is not a test for colorectal cancer or any other specific diseases. Test results must be evaluated along with other clinical data available to the clinician.
- A Positive test does not always indicate the presence of human blood. Many foods (incompletely cooked meat, raw fruits and vegetables, etc...) have a peroxidase activity which can produce a Positive Test Result.
- This test is not recommended for use with gastric specimens.

Note:

1. Do not report individual patient result unless quality control is acceptable.
2. Notify ordering physician of individual results as soon as possible.
3. Refer to package insert for more details.

Reference:

Hemoccult Package Insert September 2009