Fecal Occult Blood Testing Changes

Effective Date: June 26, 2013

Effective June 26th Beaumont Health System is standardizing fecal occult blood testing. At this time testing for both inpatients and outpatients will be performed using Hemoccult SENSA cards (blue stripe and developer top). Standard Hemoccult cards (yellow stripe and developer top) will no longer be available from stores or the outreach supply. Areas of the hospital, draw-sites or physician offices that currently use standard cards are being informed of the new ordering information.

Hemoccult SENSA cards are very similar, but more sensitive and easier to read than the standard Hemoccult card. They are guaiac-based and still subject to the same false positives and false negatives as the standard cards.

Important note:
- Hemoccult SENSA test should not be used for gastric specimens.
- Dietary iron supplements will not produce false-positive test results.
- Developing solutions should not be used interchangeably between the Hemoccult SENSA (blue top) and standard Hemoccult (yellow top).

UPCOMING change to Immunochemical Method
Later this year, Beaumont Laboratory will introduce the Polymedco Immunochemical Method for colorectal cancer screening. At that time the Hemoccult SENSA card will be used primarily by physicians and mid-level providers as a point-of-care method for immediate patient assessment.

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