HEMOCULT SCREENING

PURPOSE: To provide a rapid, convenient and qualitative method for detecting fecal occult blood.

POLICY AND GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS: This procedure is performed by physician, resident, or trained nursing staff.

EQUIPMENT:
  A. Exam gloves
  B. Hemoccult slides
  C. Hemoccult developer D.
  K-Y jelly

PROCEDURE
  A. Obtain thin smear of stool inside Box A
  B. Obtain thin smear inside of Box B
  C. Close cover flap. (Wait 3 to 5 minutes before developing. *Rational: to allow for sample to penetrate test paper.
  D. To develop the test, open the back of the slide and apply two drops of developer to guaiac paper directly over each smear.) Read test results within 60 seconds. Any tracer of blue on or at the edge of the smear is a positive result for occult blood.
  E. Developing the performance monitor feature. Apply one drop of developer between the positive (+) and negative (-) performance monitor area. Read the results within 10 seconds.
  F. After reading, discard in the in the trash.
  G. For quality check, the physician must document in the progress note that the control is (+), in addition to the results.

POINTS TO REMEMBER
  1. If the slide and developer are functional, a blue color will appear in the performance monitor area.
  2. If the performance monitor area does not react after applying the developer, the test results should be regarded as INVALID.
Substances which can cause false positive (+) test:
   1. Red meat, processed meat
   2. raw vegetables and fruits like horseradish, turnips, melons, and radishes
   3. application of antiseptic with iodine to anal areas

Substances which can cause false negative (-) test:
   1. vitamin C taken in excess 250 mg per day
   2. excessive amounts of vitamin C enriched foods (citrus fruits and juices)
   3. iron supplements with vitamin C>250 mg per day