I. **PURPOSE:**
Immediate identification of patients with blood in their feces is often helpful in planning a rapid diagnostic medical intervention and evaluation. To this end, Hemoccult Developer and Slides will be placed in the ETC for assessment of occult blood in feces. It is not a test for colorectal cancer or other specific disease.

The test depends on the oxidation of a phenolic compound, alpha guaiconic acid, which yields a blue-colored, high conjugated quinine structure. Hemoglobin exerts a peroxidase-like activity and facilitates the oxidation of this phenolic compound by hydrogen peroxide.

II. **POLICY:**
The physician or physician extender may perform a hemoccult sense occult blood test.

III. **SPECIMEN**
A thin smear of stool is required.

IV. **EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES** (Kept in kits in Department and taken to exam rooms as needed)

A. Hemoccult Developer – Store at room temperature away from heat and with bottle tightly capped.

B. Hemoccult Slides – Store at room temperature away from heat, sunlight, fluorescent and ultraviolet lights.

C. Gloves.

D. Applicator stick.

IV. **QUALITY CONTROL**
A. A log to document the Lot # and expiration date of the Hemoccult slides and developer will be maintained.

B. As stated under Documentation, the quality control for each card will be documented as ok or not ok by the physician performing the patient test.
V. PROCEDURE:

A. Check the expiration dates on the Hemoccult Developer and the Hemoccult slides. The developer date refers to opened or unopened bottles. Any outdated slides or developer will be discarded.

B. Collect a small amount of stool specimen on one end of the applicator stick. Apply it in a thin smear inside Box A of the slides. Repeat this using a different part of the stool for Box B.

C. Close the slide cover and wait 3 to 5 minutes.

D. Open the perforated window in the back of the slide and apply 2 drops of the developer to the back of each smear.

E. Read the results within 60 seconds. Any trace of blue is considered positive for occult blood. Color may fade after 60 seconds.

F. After the fecal sample has been tested, apply one drop of Hemoccult Developer between the positive and negative Performance Monitors.

G. Read the Performance Monitor Controls within 10 seconds.

On-Slide Performance Monitor Feature*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Negative</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A blue color will appear within 10 seconds after application of developer and remain stable for at least 60 seconds if test system is functional.</td>
<td>No blue color should appear after application of developer if test system is functional. Any blue originating from the PERFORMANCE MONITOR* areas should be ignored when reading the specimen test results. Neither the intensity nor the shade of the blue from the positive Performance Monitor* area, as illustrated, should be used as a reference for the appearance of posting test results.</td>
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H. If the performance monitor is unacceptable, the test must be redone, using a new slide and new developer.

VI. DOCUMENTATION:

A. Record the test result as positive or negative in the patient’s medical record.

B. Document the QC for the card (as ok or not ok) in the patient’s medical record.

VII. PROCEDURE NOTES:
A. Occasionally, a light blue discoloration may be noticed on the guaiac test paper. This discoloration does not affect the test’s accuracy or performance when it is developed and interpreted according to the recommended procedure. When developer is added to the fecal smear on a discolored slide, the blue background color migrates outward. The blue ring forms at the edge of the wetted area, leaving the guaiac paper around the fecal smear off-white in color. Interpretation is the same as with any other Hemoccult test; any blue on or at the edge of the fecal smear is positive for occult blood.

B. Some fecal samples have a high bile content which causes them to appear green. A distinct green color (not blue), appearing on or at the edge of the sample within 60 seconds after adding Hemoccult Developer should be interpreted as negative for occult blood. However, a blue or a blue-green color should be interpreted as positive for occult blood.

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