CLAIMS

1. A method ~~of detecting and/or screening~~ for ~~colorectal cancer (CRC), a colorectal adenoma or a polyp in~~ assessing the suitability of a patient for a colonoscopy, comprising:

(a) identifying a patient found to be positive for fecal occult blood; ~~and~~

(b) detecting or measuring the level of ~~one~~two or more moieties in a blood, serum or plasma sample obtained from the patient, wherein the moiety is selected from a cell free nucleosome~~,~~ and/or an epigenetic feature of a cell free nucleosome~~, carcinoembryonic antigen, an iron metabolism biomarker or a hypoxia inducible factor,~~; and

~~wherein the result obtained in step (b) is indicative of the likelihood of a patient having colorectal cancer (CRC), a colorectal adenoma or a polyp.~~

~~2. A method for assessing the suitability of a patient for a colonoscopy, comprising:~~

~~(a) testing for fecal occult blood in a fecal sample obtained from the patient;~~

~~(b) detecting or measuring the level of one or more moieties in a blood, serum or plasma sample obtained from the patient, wherein the moiety is selected from a cell free nucleosome, an epigenetic feature of a cell free nucleosome, carcinoembryonic antigen, an iron metabolism biomarker or a hypoxia inducible factor; and~~

(c) using the result obtained in step (b) as an indicator of the suitability of the patient for colonoscopy.

~~3. The methods as defined in any one of claims 1 to~~2. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein step (a) comprises testing for fecal occult blood in a fecal sample obtained from the patient.

3. The method as defined in claim 1 or claim 2, which additionally comprises use of a numerical fecal occult blood result as a parameter in step (b).

4. The ~~methods~~method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 3, which additionally comprises use of a clinical parameter in step (b).

5. The method as defined in claim 4, wherein the clinical parameter is selected from: age, sex and body mass index (BMI).

6. The method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the epigenetic feature is selected from: a post-translational histone modification, a histone variant or isoform, a DNA modification or a protein adducted to the nucleosome.

7. The method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the method additionally comprises detecting or measuring the level of carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA).