CLAIMS

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

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

(b) detecting or measuring the level of 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; and

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

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 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).