

Your Questions Answered....

**What do I need to do to take part?
Do I need to register?**

If you are aged 60-74 and are registered with a GP in Lancashire, your kit will be sent to you automatically so you don't need to do anything. If you are over 75 please ring **0800 707 60 60** to get your kit.

I'm worried about bowel cancer but I am under the age of 60. Can I request a kit?

Unfortunately, people under the age of 60 cannot take part in the screening programme. If you are worried please discuss this with your GP who can decide if you need to have tests.

**I don't live in the area.
Can I take part in screening?**

The NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme is being rolled out gradually across England. The NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme is being rolled out gradually across England.

For more information about the programme go to **www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/bowel**

**I have piles (haemorrhoids).
Should I do the test?**

Yes. The blood you see may be coming from other places such as polyps. Polyps can usually be removed during colonoscopy.

**My partner/neighbour/relative has received their kit, but I haven't had mine.
What should I do?**

Your first kit will be sent out according to your year and date of birth. This means that people living in the same area, or even at the same house, are likely to receive their kits at different times.

**I'd like to know more
- where can I go?**

This leaflet gives you information about the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme in Lancashire:

**Freephone
0800 707 60 60**

**Textphone
18001 0800 707 60 60**

www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk

**Your GP, Pharmacist or
local health clinic**



Bowel Cancer Screening Programme



This leaflet gives you more information about the new NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme

People aged 60-74 are now being invited to take part in screening

What is the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme?

It is a screening programme developed to identify traces of blood in your bowel motions which may indicate cancer. Everyone aged 60-74 and registered with a GP is being invited to take part. People are sent a test kit to use in their own home. Screening is free.

Why is screening for Bowel Cancer important?

Around 1 in 20 people in the UK get bowel cancer and it is the second biggest cause of cancer deaths. However, it is also one of the most treatable forms of cancer and can be completely cured if found in the earliest stages. One of the reasons why bowel cancer deaths are so high is because the symptoms go unnoticed until the disease is well developed. The aim of screening is to find signs of bowel problems before you even start to have symptoms. Detecting abnormalities early can save lives.

How do I take part in the screening programme?

Men and women aged 60-74 who are registered with a GP in Lancashire will automatically receive a test kit through the post. If you are within the eligible age group you will be sent a test kit every two years. Kits are sent out according to your date of birth so people living in the same household will probably receive their kits at different times. If you are 75 or over you can request a free kit by calling the free phone helpline on **0800 707 60 60**. The kit can be used in the privacy of your own home.

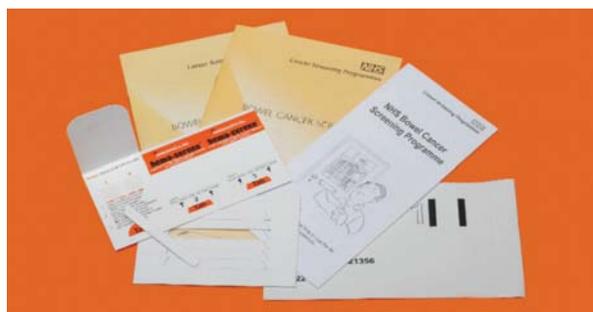
What will I have to do?

First you will receive a letter and information leaflet telling you about the screening programme. A week later you will receive your screening kit, with full instructions, and a prepaid return envelope.

How do I complete the Kit?

You will need to take small samples from three separate bowel motions. The samples are put on to the special test kit card. The kit can be completed in the comfort and privacy of your own home.

When you have completed the kit, you post it to a laboratory using a special hygienic prepaid envelope. The laboratory will process your kit very quickly and your result will be posted out to you as soon as possible. This will take a maximum of 14 days, but is often sent out much sooner.



What will my results show?

The kit does not detect cancer. Instead it looks for traces of blood in the bowel motion that may indicate you need further tests.

98 in 100 people will have a **NORMAL** result – this means that no traces of blood have been found in the sample. You will be invited to take part in screening again in 2 years time if still within the eligible age range.

2 in 100 people will have an **ABNORMAL** result – this means that traces of blood have been found in the sample. **It is important to remember that this is not a diagnosis of cancer.** An abnormal result indicates that you need further tests to find out where the blood is coming from.

Some people will be asked to repeat the screening test if their result is unclear, or if the kit has been damaged or used incorrectly.

Everyone who has an abnormal result will be offered an appointment to see a specialist screening nurse within 14 days. The nurse will discuss with you whether you should have a colonoscopy.

What is a Colonoscopy?

A colonoscopy is an investigation that looks at the lining of your bowel. A thin, flexible tube with a camera on the end is passed through your back passage and guided around your bowel.

For every 10 people with abnormal screening results who go on to have a colonoscopy:

- 5 will have a normal result
- 4 will have polyps which, if removed, can prevent cancer developing
- 1 will have cancer

Polyps are growths which, if left untreated, can develop into cancer. Polyps can usually be removed painlessly during colonoscopy. In the unlikely event that you do have cancer, a team of specialists will look after you to make sure you get the treatment you need.



Remember, most people who complete the screening test will not need colonoscopy.