

General Information:

Please use the Web Portal National Bowel Screening Programme (NBSP) for patients who have returned a positive Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT).

Programme Information:

The NBSP National Coordination Centre (NCC) invites people aged between 58 and 74 years who are eligible for publicly funded health services to participate in the screening programme. GP teams are not notified by the NCC when the invitation is sent out.

The invitation and test kit are sent by mail and a faecal sample is collected by the person in the privacy of their home. The sample is mailed to the testing laboratory in Auckland in a Freepost envelope for analysis.

All results are notified to the participant's GP. The NCC notifies participants of negative results, and they are returned to the screening programme and recalled for screening in two years if still eligible.

It is the GP's responsibility to do all of the following:

- advise their patient of a positive result,
- discuss the implications,
- provide information and support,
- refer them for a colonoscopy or provide an 'information only' referral if not proceeding to colonoscopy or they opt for a private colonoscopy.

Referral must be made to the Endoscopy Unit within 10 working days of the positive result notification.

Patient entry criteria:

- People aged 58-74 years with no prior history of bowel cancer or current pathology (see exclusion criteria below)

NBSP exclusion criteria:

- Colonoscopy within the previous 2 years
- Previously or currently being treated for bowel cancer
- Have had their entire large bowel removed
- Currently being treated for ulcerative colitis or Crohn's Disease
- Currently awaiting bowel investigations arranged by GP

Programme Objectives:

- The practice provides clinical governance of its processes for receiving of and timely notification of positive FIT results and completion of referrals
- To support participants who receive positive FIT notification
- To reimburse practices for providing positive FIT notification and completing referrals
- To decrease inequities by improving access for high need groups to support and provide early intervention following a positive FIT result

Eligibility Criteria:

- Patient must be aged between 58-74 years old
- Patient must be on the National Screening Programme
- Patient must have a positive FIT
- Health pathway must be followed
- Patients are only allowed one bowel screening claim every 2 years

Exclusion Criteria

People who (including but not limited to):

- Have had a colonoscopy with the last five years
- Have undergone total removal of the large bowel
- Have had, or are currently receiving treatment for bowel cancer
- Are in a bowel polyp or bowel cancer surveillance programme
- Are currently receiving treatment for ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease, or are under specialist surveillance
- Are currently seeing a doctor for bowel cancer symptoms.

Programme Processes:

- Practice receives positive FIT notification in the patient inbox
- Clinician notifies patient of positive FIT result, according to practice protocol, and completes a referral or 'information referral' to the endoscopy unit **within 10 working days of positive FIT result.**
 - Send a referral via ERMS: Gastroenterology/Endoscopy > National Bowel Screening Programme Referral.
 - Send a referral letter to the Gastroenterology Department.
- Clinician submits a Bowel Screening Programme claim on the web portal

Payment:

- \$78.91 will be paid for qualifying claims.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I order a Bowel screening kit for an eligible patient if they have lost or damaged their kit?

Yes, in the scenario that a participant has either lost or damaged their kit, or a patient from the priority population (Māori, Pacific or Dep 9/10) has had a bowel screening discussion with their health provider, there is an optional component to be made available, which enables your practice to send requests for test kits electronically via patient dashboards where this option is available. Alternatively, kits can be ordered by phoning the National Bowel Screening Coordination Centre on 0800 924 432.