

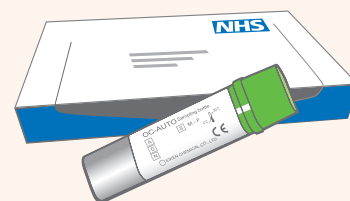
Bowel cancer screening




FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is eligible for bowel cancer screening?

Everyone aged 60 to 74 who is registered with a GP and lives in England is automatically sent a free NHS bowel cancer screening kit every two years. Londoners who were 56 after 31 March 2021 or 58 after 15 May 2022 are now also included. By April 2025, it will be for everyone aged 50 to 74 in England.



I am over 75 and I want to use a bowel cancer screening kit. What should I do?

If you are 75 or over, you can ask for a free NHS bowel cancer screening kit every two years by phoning the free bowel screening helpline  **0800 707 6060**.

Why won't people under 50 get bowel cancer screening?

By April 2025, free NHS bowel cancer screening kits will be sent every two years to everyone aged 50 to 74 who is registered with a GP and lives in England. Although people of any age can get bowel cancer, more than 9 out of 10 cases are in people aged 50 and over.

It is important for everyone, whatever their age, to be aware of bowel cancer symptoms and to contact a GP if they have these symptoms for three weeks or more.

I don't have any symptoms. Do I still need to complete the bowel cancer screening kit?

Even if you don't have any symptoms of bowel cancer; you should still complete the home testing kit when you receive it in the post. Bowel cancer screening can identify bowel cancer at an early stage when it is much easier to treat and can prevent cancer from developing.

How can I take part in bowel cancer screening?

You need to be registered with a GP to take part in screening. Everyone has the right to access healthcare. You do not need ID or a fixed address to register with a GP and your immigration status does not matter.

It is important that the GP has accurate information about you, in particular: full name, date of birth, gender and contact details e.g. mobile number and an agreed address for your health letters to go to.

If you are already registered with a GP surgery and your address is up to date, you can phone the free bowel cancer screening helpline 📞 **0800 707 6060** to order a free NHS bowel cancer screening kit.

How do I use my NHS bowel cancer screening kit?

The free NHS bowel cancer screening kit used in England is the faecal immunochemical test kit – FIT kit for short. You collect a small sample of your poo on a small plastic stick, put it in the sample bottle and post it to a lab for testing. Packaging is supplied. No stamp is needed.

When will I get my test result?

Your test result should be posted to you within two weeks of you sending off your kit.

What reasonable adjustments can I ask for?

You can ask your support worker or trusted person to help you find an accessible toilet to complete your test kit.

You can phone the the free bowel cancer screening helpline for advice or on what happens next 📞 **0800 707 6060**.

If you need to go in for further tests, you can arrange the appointment time around you.

If you are worried about having further tests, you can take a friend or trusted person with you and have questions ready to ask the Specialist Screening Practitioner (SSP). You can also let them know your concerns or specific needs.

I need more information or someone to talk to. What should I do?

Phone the free bowel cancer screening helpline 📞 **0800 707 6060**.

NHS London Bowel cancer screening

🌐 www.transformationpartners.nhs.uk/bcs/

NHS Bowel cancer screening - helping you decide

🌐 www.gov.uk/government/publications/bowel-cancer-screening-benefits-and-risks/nhs-bowel-cancer-screening-helping-you-decide

Bowel cancer screening – An easy read guide

🌐 assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/646dfec324315700136f4184/2023.04.17_nhs-bowel-screening_FIT_EasyRead-Leaflet-WebAcc.pdf