

Bowel Screening: Taking part in Bowel Screening.

- All men and women aged between 50 and 74 receive a Faecal Occult Blood test (FOBT) kit by post to their home address.
- The kit is completed at home and returned to the Scottish Bowel Screening Centre.
- It is important that once completed, test kits are returned in the Freepost envelope without delay.
- A Freephone Bowel Screening Helpline is available with trained staff happy to answer any questions.
- A verbal explanation can be given on how to do the test kit from the Bowel Screening Helpline.
- Every call is dealt with in strict confidence.

The Scottish Bowel Screening Centre notifies:

- all participants of their results
- all GP practices of positive results
- all NHS Boards of positive results requiring further investigation.

NHS Boards are responsible for providing:

- pre-assessment for colonoscopy
- colonoscopy
- collection of clinical data on all bowel screening referrals
- annual reports on the performance of bowel screening in their area
- support and publicity to encourage uptake.

Members of the public are encouraged to:

- take up bowel screening every two years
- register with a GP practice and pass on any change of address or change of contact details promptly
- know their own bowel habit and be aware of symptoms
- keep a healthy lifestyle.

Primary care teams can support the programme by:

- ensuring patient details are up-to-date on the CHI
- displaying relevant leaflets/posters in their practice
- providing accurate information on bowel screening
- encouraging eligible people to take part
- providing support for patients diagnosed as a result of the programme.

Bowel Screening: The FOBt pathway.

- Participants complete a simple FOBt (Faecal Occult Blood test) in their own home. The test can detect traces of blood which may be a sign of cancer.
- Six samples are collected in the kit from three separate bowel movements.
- A reply-paid envelope is provided for the return of the completed kit.
- At the laboratory, a solution is dropped onto each sample, and a positive result will show up as blue/green on the card.
- Any retest is carried out using a Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT), which reports either a positive or negative result for blood.
- Most participants will receive their results within two weeks.

The FOBt testing pathway

