

What is bowel cancer screening?

NHS bowel cancer screening checks if you could have bowel cancer. Screening can help prevent bowel cancer or find it at an early stage, when it's easier to treat.

The NHS sends a free bowel screening kit that allows you to collect a small sample of stool. This is checked for tiny amounts of blood in a lab.

Blood can be a sign of polyps or bowel cancer. Polyps are growths in the bowel, which can turn into cancer over time. If something is found, you will be invited to have further tests, usually at a hospital.

Always see a GP if you have symptoms of bowel cancer at any age, even if you've recently completed a screening test.

Why is bowel cancer screening offered?

Bowel cancer is one of the most common cancers and regular screening can help prevent it or find it at an early stage when it's easier to treat.

Who is bowel cancer screening for?

It is for everyone aged 56 to 74 in London, lowering to 50 by 2025. When it's your turn, you'll be sent a screening test kit every 2 years. You should complete the kit every time you are sent one.

How do I get a home screening test?

Everyone eligible in England, who is registered with a GP, is automatically sent the test kit to their home address.

When will I get my result?

Your result will be posted to you within 2 weeks. You'll be told if any further tests are needed. Additional tests do not necessarily mean you have bowel cancer.

Help us
help you

Screening
saves
lives

Free helpline: 0800 707 6060

If you're sent an
NHS bowel cancer
screening kit, put it
by the toilet.
Don't put it off.

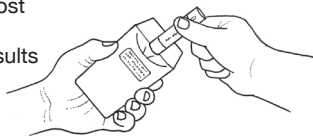
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How to use the bowel cancer screening kit

1. Write the date on the sample bottle
2. Use a container or layers of toilet paper to catch your stool
3. Do not let your stool touch the toilet water
4. Twist the cap to open the sample bottle
5. Collect a sample by scraping the stick along the stool until all grooves are covered
6. We only need a little stool to test. Please do not add extra



7. Put the stick back in the bottle and click the cap to close it
8. Do not reopen the bottle after use
9. Please wash your hands after use
10. Put the sample bottle in the free return envelope provided
11. Peel off the tape, seal the envelope and post
12. You can expect to receive your test results in two weeks



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nhs.uk/bowel-screening