

FACT SHEET

BOWEL SCREENING

Bowel cancer screening uses a test that looks for blood in your poo and can spot Bowel Cancer at an early stage, making it more treatable.

A home test kit is used to collect a sample of poo, you post this off to a lab for testing. If the test finds anything unusual, you may be asked to go to hospital for further tests.

Whilst bowel cancer is the third most common cancer, for every 100 people getting their home test kit results, 98 do not need further tests.

Who can have screening?

Bowel cancer screening is offered to those aged 54 to 74. It will soon be offered to people aged 50 to 74, so you may be sent a home test kit if you're aged 50+. This is because your risk becomes higher as you get older.

If you're 75 and over, you won't automatically be offered screening but you can request a kit every two years.

How to get a home test kit:

- **Aged 50 to 74 and registered with a GP?** You'll automatically receive a home test via the post.
- **75 or over?** Ask for a kit every two years via the free helpline on 0800 707 60 60.

Instructions come with the kit to explain what to do and results should be posted to you within two weeks.

Double check that you are registered with a GP surgery to be invited for bowel screening.

Worried or need advice: If you're concerned about a family history of bowel cancer or have any symptoms (e.g. changes in poo and stomach pain - full list at www.nhs.uk/conditions/bowel-cancer/symptoms/) don't wait for your screening:

- Speak to a GP for advice
- Call the Bowel Screening helpline on 0800 707 60 60

Search 'NHS Bowel Cancer Screening' for further guidance and details of easy read leaflets.

All information is provided by the NHS



To talk to someone in confidence, contact Healthwatch Stockport

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