



BowelScreen I need more tests. What happens now?



This is a Plain English information leaflet about having a colonoscopy.

Getting my result

If you did the BowelScreen home test, you will get a letter with your result.

The result takes a few weeks.

Your GP will also get a copy of this letter.

If you are worried or have any questions about your result, you can talk to your doctor.

What happens if I am called back?

Your letter will tell you that your result is not normal.

This means that some blood has been found in your poo.

This does not mean that you have cancer but you need another test to check.

We know that you might worry about this, so we only call you back if we need to.

If you are called back, you will need to have a test called a colonoscopy. This will find out why you have blood in your poo.

You will need to go to the hospital to have a colonoscopy.

You go during the day. Most people do not have to stay the night.

You can bring someone with you for support.

You will need someone to bring you home after the test. You cannot drive.

You might want to read our photo story if you need more tests.

This shows what will happen when you have a colonoscopy.

What is a colonoscopy?

A colonoscopy is an examination of your bowel.

It is the best way to check for cancer and other bowel problems.

The colonoscopy is done by a doctor or special nurse.

The doctor or nurse puts a thin tube into your bottom.

There is a camera at the end of the tube.

The doctor or nurse can see your bowel on a screen.

They can check for any signs of cancer.

The doctor or nurse can take out any polyps.

A polyp is a small lump that could turn into cancer.

The doctor or nurse can take a tiny piece of your bowel.

This can be sent to a laboratory to be checked for cancer.

Staff will explain everything to you.

You can ask any questions that you want.

When will I get the result?

A doctor or nurse will give you some information on the same day.

You might have to come back another day for all your results.

Most people called back for more tests will not have cancer.

If you need more tests or treatment, we will talk to you.

Together we will decide the best thing to do.

Important information

It is very important to find cancer early. This can save lives.

If cancer in your bowel is found early, it is easier to treat.

You will have more treatment choices and more chance of getting better.

Talk to your GP if you have any worries or there is a change to your poo. Tell your GP if anyone in your family has had bowel cancer.

A nurse will phone you to check if you are suitable for a colonoscopy and to organise your test.

The nurse will ask for information about your health and any medication that you take.

The nurse will tell you what to do to get ready for the colonoscopy.

The nurse will talk to you about a special medicine. You must drink this medicine to empty your bowel before the colonoscopy.

There is a charge of €80 for the colonoscopy test.

You do not pay if you have a medical card.

You will get an appointment in 4 to 6 weeks.

You will be sent information about having a colonoscopy.

Having a Colonoscopy Your Choice

You choose if you want to do the test or not.

You might want someone to look at all the information with you.
Ask questions if you're not sure.

You can say yes or no to the test.

You will be asked to sign a consent form.

Tell us if you need support or more information to make a choice about having a colonoscopy.

For most people, having a colonoscopy is very simple.

Sometimes there can be problems, for example, bleeding, a small tear in the bowel, breathing or heart problems. This is rare.

Sometimes a polyp or cancer might not be seen.

If you are worried about your colonoscopy, you can call BowelScreen for free on
1800 45 45 55.

More information



www.bowelscreen.ie

Phone us free on 1800 45 45 55



The photo on the cover was taken by Pauline Dennigan Photography.



We would like to thank the staff in the Endoscopy Unit at University Hospital Kerry for their support in making these resources.



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

