



BowelScreen

An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Putóige
The National Bowel Screening Programme

Screening charter

About BowelScreen – The National Bowel Screening Programme

- BowelScreen – The National Bowel Screening Programme offers free bowel screening to men and women aged 60 to 69. The BowelScreen programme will over time be offered to all people aged 55-74.
- The bowel screening test is carried out in your own home.
- Bowel screening can detect changes in the bowel before they become cancer.
- Bowel screening aims to find bowel cancer at an early stage when it is easier to treat.

Our commitment to you

- We will respect your privacy, dignity, religion, race and cultural beliefs.
- We will arrange services and facilities so that you can use the service, including special needs.
- We will keep your screening records safe and confidential.
- We will welcome your views and take them into account.
- We will provide a Freephone information and support line during normal working hours.
- We will offer you free screening every two years while you are aged 60 to 69, once you become known to the programme.

- We will provide information explaining each step in the screening process.
- We will send your home test kit, instructions and information to you within five working days of you letting us know you want to take part in the programme.
- We will screen your test in a laboratory that meets high quality standards.
- We will send your test result to you and to your GP (family doctor) within four weeks.

If you take part in the screening programme and your test result is not normal

- We will offer you a colonoscopy – a special examination of your bowel.
- A colonoscopy will be offered within four weeks of you being assessed as suitable.

If you need treatment

- We will tell you sensitively and honestly.
- We will explain the treatment available to you.
- We will encourage you to share in decision-making about your treatment.
- We can include your partner, friend or relative in any discussions if that is what you want.

- We will offer you surgery or other treatment within 25 working days after your colonoscopy, if you need it.
- We will offer you support from a nurse before and during your colonoscopy.
- You have the right to refuse treatment, to get a second opinion or to choose an alternative treatment.

Ways you can help us

- Read any information we send you and if you have any questions you can call the Freephone information and support line.
- Follow the instructions with your BowelScreen home test and return the test to us within seven days.
- If we refer you for more tests, keep your appointment time and give at least three days' notice if you need to change your appointment.
- Tell us if you have special needs that we need to plan for.
- Tell us if you change your address.
- Tell us what you think of the service and the care you received. Your views will help us to improve the service for you and for other people.

Freephone
1800 45 45 55
www.bowelscreen.ie



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

The National Screening Service is part of the Health Service Executive. It encompasses BreastCheck – The National Breast Screening Programme, CervicalCheck – The National Cervical Screening Programme, BowelScreen – The National Bowel Screening Programme and Diabetic RetinaScreen – The National Diabetic Retinal Screening Programme.