

Bowel Screening

Bowel screening involves testing for bowel cancer in people who are asymptomatic. The aim is to find cancers early when they are easier to treat and cure. Screening can also find polyps, which may develop into cancer over time.

A screening test called a Faecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) is used to collect samples of bowel motions, which are then analysed to detect tiny traces of blood, invisible to the naked eye. The screening test cannot diagnose bowel cancer, but the results will indicate whether a further test (usually a colonoscopy) is needed to rule out bowel cancer.

The [National Bowel Cancer Screening Program](#) offers immunochemical FOBT screening to Australians aged over 50 to screen for bowel cancer using a free, simple test at home. See National Bowel Cancer Screening [Age Eligibility by Year of Birth](#) or [check your eligibility](#)

It is important that GPs are encouraging patients over 50 years to participate and perform the bowel cancer screening test, offering education about bowel cancer and explaining why screening is important.

Education:

- Bowel Cancer Screening – [Knowing the Program](#)
- Think GP Offers Online education for [Bowel Screening](#)
- APNA – Bowel Screening education for Practice Nurses -[Click here](#)
- Menzies -National Indigenous Bowel Screening Online Module – [Click here](#)

Useful links:

[National Bowel Cancer Screening Program](#)

[Cancer Institute NSW: Key Knowledge Points](#)

[RACGP Early detection of Cancers: Colorectal Cancer](#)

[GP factsheet with bowel screening pathway](#)

[Role of Health Professionals in Bowel Screening](#)

[Indigenous Bowel Screening](#)

**NATIONAL
BOWELCANCER**
SCREENING PROGRAM

hneccphn.com.au

Healthy People | Healthy Communities

