



Participant screening pathway

The National Bowel Cancer Screening Program is for people aged 45 to 74. We get your details from Medicare.

People aged 45 to 49 join the program by requesting their first free kit at ncsr.gov.au/boweltest.

People aged 50 to 74 receive a bowel screening kit in the mail every 2 years.

- All eligible people aged 45 to 74 can also ask their doctor about getting a kit.
- The next test kit is automatically mailed every 2 years after the last screening test is completed.
- You can opt out or temporarily defer from the program.
- If you have signs, symptoms or a family history of bowel cancer this test may not be suitable.

Do the test and send it back

Complete the bowel screening test within 2 weeks of receiving it in the mail. Return it in the reply paid envelope with the participant details form.

A reminder is sent in 8 weeks if the test is not returned. If no response, another kit is sent in 2 years.

You and your nominated doctor are sent your test result.

Negative result

You will be sent another kit in 2 years.

Positive result

Make an appointment to see your doctor to discuss next steps.

Reminder letter

If you have not seen your doctor to discuss your positive result after 8 weeks, we will send you and your doctor a reminder letter.

Reminder call

If you have not seen your doctor after 12 weeks, a program representative[^] may call you or your doctor to follow-up.

Your doctor may not refer you for colonoscopy. You may opt out or defer from the program.

Your doctor may refer you for colonoscopy.

If you have not seen your doctor to discuss your positive result after 26 weeks, we will send you and your doctor a reminder letter.

If you have not seen your doctor after 30 weeks, a program representative may call you or your doctor to follow-up.

If we have no record from your doctor visit, we will send you another test kit in 2 years.

Colonoscopy

Negative colonoscopy (no abnormalities detected)

- Your specialist and doctor will discuss your results with you and inform the program.
- You will be re-invited to screen 4 years from negative result.

Positive colonoscopy (abnormalities detected)

- Your specialist and doctor will discuss your results with you and options for follow-up as per clinical guidelines.
- Your clinical care will continue outside the program.
- We will send you and your doctor a letter confirming screening has ended.

Reminder letter

If no colonoscopy reported at 8 weeks from doctor referral, the program will send you and your doctor a letter.

Reminder call

If no colonoscopy reported at 12 weeks, the program representative may call you or your doctor.

If no colonoscopy reported at 16 weeks from doctor referral, the program will send you and your doctor a letter.

If no colonoscopy reported at 20 weeks, the program representative may call you or your doctor.

If we have no record of your colonoscopy we will send you another test kit in 2 years.

[^] A program representative is employed by state and territory health departments on behalf of the program.