

National Bowel Screening Programme (NBSP)

Introduction and Background

The National Bowel Screening Programme (NBSP) is a free programme to help detect bowel cancer. It is being offered every two years to people aged 60 to 74 years who are eligible for publicly funded health care. Both enrolled and non-enrolled patients qualify for the screening programme, and Māori and Pacific people are seen as priority groups. People are invited into the programme on their 60th birthday.

Target population

Aged 60 to 74 years and not listed on the Bowel Cancer Register
Eligible for publicly funded health care in New Zealand

Eligible patients are identified from NHI and PHO enrolment data and sent an invitation around the time of their birthday by the National Bowel Screening Coordination Centre (NBSCC).

Patients are sent by mail an initial information letter by the NBSC, including clinical exclusion criteria, followed two weeks later by a self-test kit, which includes a faecal immunochemical test (FIT).

For further information see:

- Te Whatu Ora [clinical practice guidelines](#) for Bowel Screening In New Zealand
- [National Bowel Screening Programme - Community HealthPathways](#)

General Practice Role (summary)

- Ensure ethnicity data, phone number, next of kin, and postal address are up-to-date
- Promoting the screening programme opportunistically
- Educating patients about the symptoms of bowel cancer
- Identifying patients with a family history of bowel cancer
- Notifying the NBSCC via the National Tuku Referral Management System tool through the Mōhio Integrated Referral form (call 0800 924 432 if an eligible patient either opts off, is not suitable for the programme or requires direct ordering for a FIT test kit. *See Mōhio Integrated bowel screening referral form details below and in the [Auckland Regional HealthPathways - Refer to the Direct ordering of test kits section.](#)*
- Clinicians should also notify the Programme (via HealthLink e-referral system) **ALL** FIT positive patients, even if they are unsuitable for, or have declined colonoscopy, or are having private colonoscopy. (*see below for further information on results management*)

- Ensure patients have adequate support, e.g. kaiāwhina, whānau, [Māori or Pacific](#) health provider that will support eligible patients throughout the screening and treatment process.
- Provide [patient information](#) [Available in Māori, English, Samoan, Fijian, Tongan, Cook Islands, Niue, Tuvalu, Tokelau, Kiribati, Rotuma].
- Non responders are initially followed up by the NBSCC, then notified to the local NBSP team. If an individual cannot be contacted, the primary care team may be requested to help.

The NBSP does not replace targeted surveillance of individuals at higher risk, or the investigation of those with colorectal symptoms. See also:

- [Bowel Cancer Risk Categories](#)
- [Colorectal Symptoms](#)
- [Bowel Polyp Surveillance](#)

Mōhio Integrated Bowel Screening Referral Form options:

1. Send a Test Kit

2. Patient is withdrawing from the current cycle

3. Patient is withdrawing permanently

4. Patient is not suitable for screening in the current cycle

5. Patient is not suitable for screening – withdraw permanently

The Integrated Bowel Screening Referral Form, can notify the NBSCC, via the National “Tuku” (Referral Management System) tool of a patient’s enrolment status on the programme (notifying if a patient is withdrawing or not suitable) and clinicians can also order a FIT test kit (as required) where a test kit will be sent to the patient’s address.

Direct ordering of test kits from the NBSCC can be used to support equitable participation in the NBSP. See [Auckland Region HealthPathways](#) for full information under the **Direct ordering of test kits** section.

Ensure there are no exclusion criteria and that the process of the screening programme has been discussed with the patient.

Reminder:

*Mōhio also provides a National Bowel Screening indicator on **Mōhio Express**, which acts as a visual indicator of the patient’s eligibility status. For patients already on the programme, the indicator illustrates when the patient is due for a follow-up FIT test kit as per the NBSP guidelines. [Clinical practice guidelines](#).*

NB: The Bowel Screening Programme Form can also be accessed through this Mōhio Express Indicator if the patient meets the eligibility criteria.

Mōhio Form

This form is consistent with the requirements of the NBSCC.

1. Full Form (next page)

Consultation Date

Outcome / Comments

i.e. CMDHB colonoscopy, private referral, etc

BSP Referral Id

Please click [Check Patient Eligibility] button to check the patient's eligibility to bowel screening programme, if the check result is false, then the patient is ineligible to this programme.

Is Patient Eligible?

Check Patient Eligibility

Send update to Bowel Screening Programme (will include patient's contact details).

Action

The following fields are information required for the bowel screening programme that we couldn't get from the pms.

Facility Hpi

Healthlink Mailbox (Edi)

2. Check patient's eligibility

The form requires the provider to check the patient's eligibility criteria. The provider must click the Blue "Check Patient Eligibility" button:

Please click [Check Patient Eligibility] button to check the patient's eligibility to bowel screening programme, if the check result is false, then the patient is ineligible to this programme.

Is Patient Eligible?

Check Patient Eligibility

3. Actions list

There are now five options in the dropdown menu for the provider to select from. The new update now allows "withdraw" and "not suitable" statuses to be recorded for either the current cycle or recorded permanently:

Action

- Please send a test kit
- Patient wants to withdraw from current cycle
- Patient wants to withdraw permanently
- Patient not suitable for screening in current cycle
- Patient not suitable for screening - withdraw permanently

4. Action: provider chooses to send a test kit

If the provider selects to send a test kit, they will be presented with the following confirmations. All five must be confirmed by the provider before submitting the form:

Action

Please send a test kit

When the user confirms that they want to request that a kit is sent, please verify

Patient consents to test kit being sent

[Patient consents to test kit being sent] is required

Patient not under current investigation for bowel symptoms

[Patient not under current investigation for bowel symptoms] is required

No reported colonoscopy in last 5 years

[No reported colonoscopy in last 5 years] is required

Patient has not had a negative result in the last 2 years

[Patient has not had a negative result in the last 2 years] is required

Patient has not had a positive result in the last 5 years

[Patient has not had a positive result in the last 5 years] is required

5. New actions: withdrawing from the current cycle or withdrawing permanently

If the provider selects “withdraw from current cycle”, the following message will appear:

Action

Patient wants to withdraw from curre

Patient will be re-invited next cycle

If the patient wishes to withdraw permanently, the following message will appear:

Action

Patient wants to withdraw permaner

If they wish to participate in the future they may contact the coordination centre for a test kit

6. New actions: patient not eligible for the current cycle, or permanently not eligible

If the provider selects “patient not eligible this cycle”, the following message and exclusion reasons will appear. Please select the option most relevant for the

patient. If you cannot find the best fit, please select “Other”, and record the reason(s) in the Outcome/Comments Box (see 9. Outcome / Comments below).

Action Patient not suitable for screening in ▾

Patient will be re-invited next cycle

Please advise the reason(s) for excluding your patient from Screening (tick all that apply)

- Patient is on a bowel polyp or bowel cancer surveillance programme
- Patient has had or is currently being treated for bowel cancer
- Patient has had their large bowel removed
- Patient is currently being treated for ulcerative colitis or Crohn's Disease
- Patient is currently awaiting bowel investigations arranged by the GP
- Patient has had a colonoscopy within the last 5 years
- Other (record reason in Outcome)

For patients who not eligible and need to be withdrawn permanently, the following message and exclusion criteria will appear:

Action Patient not suitable for screening - w ▾

If screening is appropriate in the future they may contact the coordination centre for a test kit.

Please advise the reason(s) for excluding your patient from Screening (tick all that apply)

- Patient is on a bowel polyp or bowel cancer surveillance programme
- Patient has had or is currently being treated for bowel cancer
- Patient has had their large bowel removed
- Patient is currently being treated for ulcerative colitis or Crohn's Disease
- Patient is currently awaiting bowel investigations arranged by the GP
- Patient has had a colonoscopy within the last 5 years
- Other (record reason in Outcome)

7. Practice core information

For all selections, the Practice **Facility ID** and **EDI** need to be provided in the Mōhio form. This will need to be done manually by the practice:

The following fields are information required for the bowel screening programme that we couldn't get from the pms.

Facility Hpi

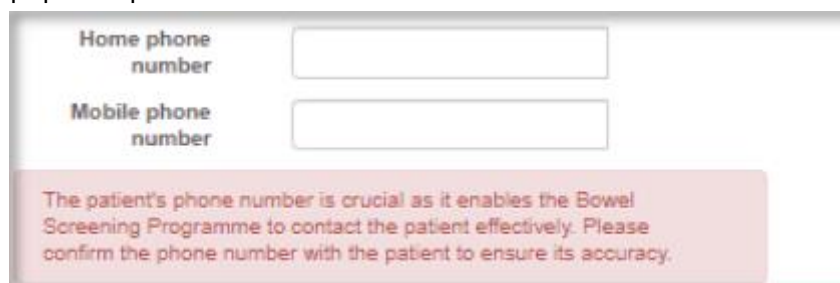
Healthlink Mailbox (Edi)

8. Patient core information

Please make sure to check the patient's core contact information for accuracy before submitting the form:

Send update to Bowel Screening Programme (will include patient's contact details).

In support of this process, the form also includes a section which will pre-populate patient contact numbers from the PMS:



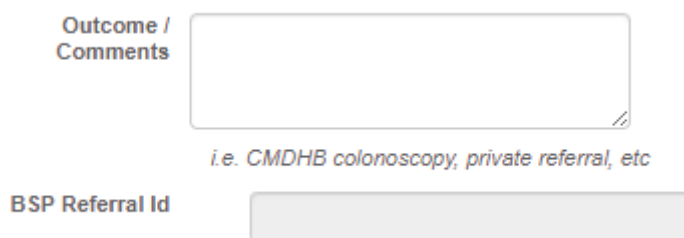
Home phone number

Mobile phone number

The patient's phone number is crucial as it enables the Bowel Screening Programme to contact the patient effectively. Please confirm the phone number with the patient to ensure its accuracy.

9. Outcome / Comments

An opportunity for the clinician to add additional information which may support the care of this patient or relates to actions 2-5 (see 6. [New actions: patient not eligible for the current cycle or permanently](#)). Also provides an opportunity to relay delivery requirements to ensure the patient receives their test kit:



Outcome / Comments

i.e. CMDHB colonoscopy, private referral, etc

BSP Referral Id

Managing Results

- Please refer to [National Bowel Screening Programme - Community HealthPathways](#) sections;
 - **Recording a Negative FIT Result**
 - **Managing a Positive FIT Result**
 - **Post Referral Process**
- Please note: Send a request to the National Bowel Screening Programme via the HealthLink e-referral system, for **ALL positive FIT results**, including patients who have elected to have a colonoscopy in private or who have declined a colonoscopy or whether the patient is ineligible for any reason, using the specific **National Bowel Screening Programme FIT positive eReferral form**. From HealthLink eReferrals, select:
 - Gastroenterology > Endoscopy

- Reason for referral as colonoscopy
- Reason for colonoscopy as National Bowel Screening Programme FIT positive

Payment for the management of a positive FIT

- A \$60 +GST fee is payable by Auckland PHO, for all notifications of positive FIT results completed within the 10-day time frame. No payment claim is required.
- All positive FIT results must be notified, including positive cases where the participant does not require a colonoscopy under the NBSP, (see *above, results management*)
- It is expected that no fee will be charged to the patient for discussion, examination (if required), or referral.

For further information see:

- Te Whatu Ora [clinical practice guidelines](#) for Bowel Screening In New Zealand
- [National Bowel Screening Programme - Community HealthPathways](#)
- To contact the district bowel screening [team](#).

Auckland PHO Contact

Please contact Auckland PHO Clinical and Quality Manager, Siobhan Matich siobhan@aucklandpho.co.nz for any questions.