

Bowel Cancer Screening Pathway

Any symptoms?

- bleeding from the rectum or any sign of blood after a bowel motion
- a recent or persistent change in your bowel habit (e.g. looser bowel motions, severe constipation, and/or needing to go to the toilet more often than usual)
- unexplained tiredness, or
- persistent or recurring abdominal pain, or
- a lump or mass in the tummy

Beat Bowel Cancer Aotearoa is a registered charity. Donations are gratefully received by: post, electronic transfer or bank deposit to any branch of Kiwibank account number: 38-9010-0509792-00



Beat Bowel Cancer
A O T E A R O A

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Yes

If you notice any of these symptoms, it does not mean that you have bowel cancer, but it is very important that you discuss them with your doctor.

No

If you develop any of these symptoms, see your doctor immediately. If detected early, 75% of bowel cancers can be cured.

A personal history of ...

- bowel cancer?
- inflammatory bowel disease, such as Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis?
- special types of polyps, called adenomas, in the bowel?

Yes

If you have a personal history of bowel cancer, inflammatory bowel disease or adenomas in the bowel, you should talk to your doctor.

No

Family history of bowel cancer?

You are considered to have a significant family history of bowel cancer if a close relative (parent, brother, sister or child) developed bowel cancer at a young age (under 55 years) or if more than one relative on the same side of your family has had bowel cancer.

Yes

If you think you have a family history of bowel cancer, you should talk to your doctor about your risk of getting the disease.

No

More than 75% of people who develop bowel cancer do not have a family history.

Aged 50 - 74 years and live in the Waitemata DHB region?

Your bowel cancer risk increases with age. 1 in 18 New Zealanders will develop bowel cancer.

Yes

If you are aged 50-74 years you may be eligible to take part in the Waitemata DHB screening programme which commenced in October 2011. Please discuss with your doctor.

No

Unfortunately you are not eligible to take part in the planned Pilot Screening Programme in the Waitemata DHB area. Screening for bowel cancer every 2 years for people aged over age 50 has been recommended. If you are aged over 50, please discuss having a screening test with your doctor. See box below for information about independently purchasing screening test kits.

Screening Test Kits are available for purchase at a range of pharmacies throughout New Zealand. Information can be found on this website: www.bowelscreenaotearoa.org