

**National Bowel Screening Programme
Primary Care Update**

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Position	Bowel Screening Coordinator

Age Extension coming....

Between April and June 2024, Bowel Screening for Māori and Pasifika will be available from the age 50 in the Central region. This is a huge milestone for the Whanganui region. This is a step toward addressing an acknowledged health inequity. A higher portion of bowel cancer occurs in Māori and Pacific people before they reach 60 (approx. 21% vs 10% for non-Māori, non-Pacific)

- FIT kits for Māori and Pacific people aged 50-59 will be sent out around the participant's birthday. Those with a birth date that falls on an even number will be invited in the first 12 months, with odd birth dates invited in the second 12 months.
- The NBSP pathway will not change – there is no change to the positive FIT referral process and payment process for submitting a positive FIT
- Eligibility for the NBSP is taken from NHI information. To help reach all newly eligible people please ensure your patients ethnicity and address details are current in your Patient Management System.
- Please continue to encourage your patients to participate in the NBSP – research shows GPs are key influencers in encouraging NBSP participation.

Patients on recall

There will be those on recall who did participate the first time and those who did not return a kit when first invited and were moved onto recall. Primary care teams are in a key position to take the opportunity to identify whether their reasons for not participating initially were for any of the reasons listed below and to reassure and advise of any misinformation.

Misinformation/Myth

There are a number of recurring themes emerging from contact we have had with the public and community through interaction at events/promotions, public health/primary care and with outreach providers, and they may be worth keeping in mind during any conversations regarding bowel screening with patients.

- Some men are confusing the test with a prostate examination and think they are going to have a digital rectal examination.
- Some have assumed they need to go somewhere to have an examination and are unaware the test is done by themselves at home.
- Most people are surprised that the size of a head of a matchstick is all required, some were reluctant because they thought they had to provide a larger sample
- Some are unaware what the test is looking for and have a fear of cancer being found. It's important to reassure the majority of people will have a negative test
- Some think the test is for women only and some think it is for men only
- Spoilt kits usually occur because the person didn't put the barcode sticker on the kit, forgot to put the date on the form or the kit was returned beyond the 7-day time frame. These factors need reinforcing at every opportunity to avoid the possibility of a spoilt kit.
- While the new FIT kit addresses some of this misinformation, a good korero is always helpful to get the correct information out.



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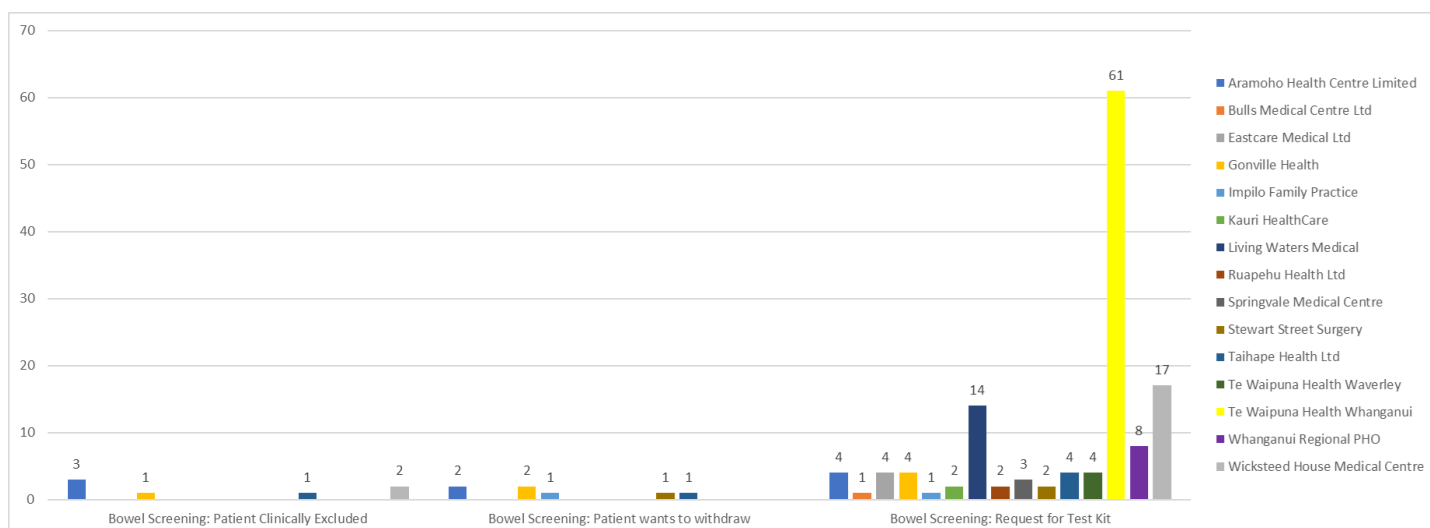
The “why every 2 years?” talk

During many outings there has been a theme coming through that a lot of people think because they have done the FIT test once, they do not need to do it again, and they end up on outreach, tell our outreach kaimahi that they have done it, then proceed to time out and go onto a recall system. Please korero with your patients that being invited to take the test every 2 years is to ensure we can find any cancers at an early stage, before it spreads, and in between the first initial kit and the 2 years, something could have developed as you continue to age.

Outreach update

Our bowel screening outreach team continue to do a great job reaching people who haven't returned kits. We are always looking for ways to do things better. Any feedback would be greatly accepted. Please send all feedback to marie.jones@wdhb.org.nz

Kits ordered – August



Participation Rates- August

Overall –51.3%
Sent-754
Returned-387
Spoilt-32
Normal-341
Abnormal-14

Pasifika-64%
Sent-14
Returned-9
Spoilt-0
Normal-8
Abnormal- 1

Maori-32%
Sent-148
Returned- 48
Spoilt-4
Normal-41
Abnormal-3



A few reminders:

Management of positive test results includes advising the patient about the result, discussing the implications, and referring them for bowel screening colonoscopy. **Referrals should be made within 10 working days of a positive result being received.**

- Bowel screening participants that have an abnormal FIT result and are identified as symptomatic when contacted for referral must still be referred using the “National Bowel Screening Programme Referral” option in the advanced form. GPs/Nurses should record notes relating to symptoms in the “Additional Information” section of the advanced form, so that the Te Whatu Ora Whanganui bowel screening team are aware of their status.

Resources-National Campaign

- Please continue to use your resources that you currently have from the National Campaign push. Until we can receive more funding for the age extension roll-out, Te Whatu Ora Whanganui Bowel Screening Team has a very limited budget to work with.

Contact Details for Lead Endoscopy Nurse for Bowel Screening:

- Jo Keaney can be contacted on (06) 348 3320 or joanne.keaney@wdhb.org.nz for any queries relating to bowel screening referrals, bowel preparation or bowel screening colonoscopy.

Useful Links:

- Copy this link into your internet browser to view a short video update on how to submit requests for FIT kits via Patient Dashboard:
<http://www.healthsolutionstrust.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Priority-bowel-screening-enrolment-on-Dashboard-2-min-update.mp4>
- Copy this link into your internet browser to view an electronic copy of the “Quick Reference Guide for Primary Health Teams” document:
https://www.healthed.govt.nz/system/files/resource-files/HP6836_NBSP_Quick%20Ref%20Guide%20for%20PHT.pdf.
- Copy this link into your internet browser to view an electronic copy of the “All about Bowel Screening” brochure:
<https://www.timetoscreen.nz/assets/Uploads/HE1202-NBSP-All-about-Bowel-Screening-broc-FA2.pdf>.



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