

Taranaki Bowel Screening NEWSLETTER



National
Bowel
Screening
Programme

December 2021

To-date results as of 7 December

Bowel screening has been live in Taranaki since start of August 2021!

Kits sent out

3,953

Uptake % Taranaki

57.1%

MoH Target 60%

Uptake % Māori

37.2%

MoH Target 60%

Positives

86

Spoilt kits %

7.3%

Nationally 9.6%

Cancers

3

Meet the Bowel Screening team

Kareen McLeod – Bowel Screening Clinical Nurse Specialist



“Our patients enjoy having the one point of contact, dealing with just me.”

Kareen supports a bowel screening participant through their colonoscopy to when their results come back.

“People are sending kits in and are really excited to be part of the programme,” Kareen says.

A GP tells a participant about the positive test result then refers them to the programme. Kareen then phones the participant to start the process which involves a medical pre-assessment and patient-centred booking of colonoscopy appointments.

Kareen is also working with people who aren't sending their kits back. It's important to send your kit back within eight days. If we find bowel cancer early there's a 90% chance of survival.

“We're getting really good feedback from people who've appreciated the support.”

Tips for GPs

1. There is only one BPAC eReferral pathway to use for FIT positive results:

Organisation Name	Department	Specialty
Search: FIT		
National Bowel Screening P		Positive FIT

Complete your positive FIT consultation by filling in the information required in the **Specialty** tab to support eligibility for screening programme.

Use the **Clinical Details** tab to enter any additional clinical notes.

2. Please note this question in the specialty tab section:

☒ Is on the bowel cancer surveillance programme ☐ Yes ☐ No

This relates to patients already on a regular surveillance programme for previous bowel polyps or bowel cancer, due to genetic or family risk. This does not relate to the National Bowel Screening Programme.

3. Suitability for the programme – at the time of positive FIT consultation please consider if a colonoscopy is in your patient's best interests in the light of their overall health status. Participants with terminal illness or cognitive impairment affecting their ability to consent are not suitable and can be withdrawn from the programme by contacting the NCC following the free consultation.

4. Blood tests to support positive FIT referrals:

Please request: eGFR/Creatinine and Sodium/Potassium if not had a normal renal and electrolyte function test within the past six months. Include these results in the

Investigations tab. This supports participant safety when taking bowel preparation.

5. **Addition of Bowel Screening in BPAC Patient Prompt (for Medtech PMS practices) is live from 10 November 2021**

The prompt will show bowel screening status of patients eligible for programme. Opportunistic conversation with patients regarding participation is encouraged. FIT kits can be ordered for priority populations by calling the NCC on 0800 924 432

This resource sheet highlights the functionality: www.pinnaclepractices.co.nz/assets/Resource-files/One-Point-Lesson-for-BOWEL-Pt-Prompt.pdf

For troubleshooting or support please contact your PHO practice support or BPAC.

6. Spoilt kit rate reduction advice – Take every opportunity to remind participants to write the collection date onto the consent form and fix the bar code onto the sample.

Tip for participants

- If you're aged 60-74 years you'll receive an invitation in the mail in the next two years to complete a simple home test kit.
- **You don't need to register** for the free home test kit. If you're eligible, you'll automatically be invited to participate with a test in the mail from the National Coordination Centre (NCC). Make sure you do the test and return it within eight days.
- You can call the NCC if you have questions or need to update your details - 0800 924 432
- Remember to write the collection date on the consent form and stick the bar code on the FIT test kit before posting it away to prevent the kit being spoilt and having to complete another one.



DID YOU KNOW?

If you're in our high priority group - Māori, Pasific peoples and those living in deprived areas (decile 9 & 10) - you can talk with your GP and get a kit sent to you earlier.





Our bowel screening champion Stephanie Lane

Stephanie had a laugh with her doctor when he smirked and told her she hadn't had the pleasure of a colonoscopy yet.

Stephanie was our first bowel screening participant to have a colonoscopy at Taranaki Base Hospital, a procedure she says was "actually nothing to worry about".

Based in Hāwera, Stephanie says receiving the positive result from the home test kit was a shock at first but she quickly heard from our bowel screening nurse Kareen and her GP. "It was a smooth process with a lot of contact guiding you through the whole way".

She says "not being completely out" for the procedure would normally have upset her but she was surprisingly relaxed and thinks she even went to sleep.

The colonoscopy was all over in just a couple of hours - enough time for nine polyps to be found and her husband to do some shopping in town.

"It might have been a little bit uncomfortable but there's absolutely nothing to fear."

The negative cancer result was a massive relief. Stephanie's grandmother and her husband's mum both died from bowel cancer.

"It's good to stay on top of the screening. It's a peace of mind. Don't put it off. The home test kit isn't nice but the sooner you do it, the sooner you can put your mind to rest."

Stephanie will now have follow up colonoscopies every couple of years, which makes her "feel safe if so anything happens we're onto it".

Contact us

Email bowelscreening@tdhb.org.nz

Visit www.tdhub.org.nz/services/bowel-screening.shtml

Visit www.timetoscreen.nz

Call the National Coordination Centre 0800 924 432