



«\_SO\_NAAM»  
Postbus «\_SO\_POSTBUSNR»  
«\_SO\_POSTBUSPOSTCODE»  
«\_SO\_POSTBUSPLAATS»  
t «\_SO\_TEL»  
f «\_SO\_FAX»  
«\_SO\_WEBSITEADRES»  
«\_SO\_EMAILADRES»

> Return address: Kamerlingh Onneslaan 6, 8218 MA Lelystad

«\_CLIENT\_NAAM»  
«\_CLIENT\_ADRES»  
«\_CLIENT\_POSTCODE» «\_CLIENT\_WOONPLAATS»

«\_SO\_PLAATS», «\_DATUM\_VANDAAG»  
Subject: invitation for bowel cancer screening programme

Date of birth:  
«\_CLIENT\_GEBOORTEDATUM»  
Citizen Service Number (BSN):  
«\_CLIENT\_BSN»

«\_CLIENT\_AANHEF»,

We would like to invite you to take part in the national bowel cancer screening programme.

## The reason for the programme

Bowel cancer is a common disease and a serious one. Between 4 and 5 people out of every 100 will get bowel cancer at some point during their lifetime. Most people with bowel cancer are 55 years or older.

Screening enables doctors to detect and treat cancer at an early stage, sometimes even before the disease has actually developed. In the long term, this can help to prevent 2,400 deaths from bowel cancer each year.

The screening programme is for all men and women aged 55 to 75. They will receive an invitation every two years.

You can carry out the procedure yourself at home. This envelope contains a leaflet about the bowel cancer screening programme, a reply form, a self-sampling test kit, a bag and a return envelope.

## How does the screening work?

The invitation is accompanied by a self-sampling test kit. The sampling tube has a green cap with a stool sampling stick attached. For this test, dip the ribbed section of the sampling stick into four different parts of your stool. The instructions give you a step-by-step description of how to take the samples.

Use the return envelope provided to send the tube to the laboratory, along with your completed reply form. There your stool will be tested for traces of blood. These cannot usually be seen with the naked eye. Blood in your stool may be due to bowel cancer, but there are a number of other possible causes. A further examination is needed to determine this.

## The results

After about two weeks, a letter will be sent to your home informing you of the test results.

## Participation is your decision

Participation in the screening programme is voluntary. The screening (self-sampling test) is free: it is provided and paid for by the government. Your health insurance will reimburse any further examination (intake interview and colonoscopy). You may have to meet part of the costs yourself, depending on your health insurance coverage. If you have any questions about this, you should discuss them with your health insurance company.

## When is it better not to take part?

The leaflet explains when it would be better for you not to participate. This is something you can also

discuss with your GP. If you decide not to participate, we would still ask you to answer Question 1 and Questions 5 to 7 on the form and to send it back in the return envelope.

### **Sending your details online**

Using the client portal, you can fill in the reply form online. Go to «\_SO\_WEBSITEADRES" and click the 'My screening' button. To log in, you need your DigiD. You can also use the portal to opt out of the screening.

### **Further details**

The leaflet gives you more information on the screening programme. You can also read more on [www.bevolkingsonderzoekdarmkanker.nl](http://www.bevolkingsonderzoekdarmkanker.nl). This website also contains answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

If you have questions about your health, you should consult your GP. For answers to other questions, you can call the «\_SO\_NAAM», information line on «SO\_TEL» (Monday to Friday from 09.00 to 17.00). Our staff will be happy to help you.

Yours sincerely,

«\_SO\_VTW\_TITEL» «\_SO\_VTW\_VOORLETTERS» «\_SO\_VTW\_TUSSENVOEGSEL»  
«\_SO\_VTW\_ACHTERNAAM»

«\_SO\_VTW\_FUNCTIE»

### **Attachments:**

- leaflet about the bowel cancer screening programme
- instructions
- reply form
- sampling tube
- bag
- return envelope