Subject: prior notice of bowel cancer screening programme

The national bowel cancer screening programme was launched at the start of 2014. The screening programme is for all men and women aged 55 to 75. It is to be introduced in phases, with nationwide coverage by 2019. When you receive your first invitation to take part in the programme will depend on your year of birth. In the course of 2014, all men and women born in 1938, 1939, 1947, 1949 and 1951 will receive an invitation to participate.

In about two weeks, you will receive an invitation to take part. Participation in the screening programme is voluntary: it is up to you to decide whether you want to participate or not.

Bowel cancer
Bowel cancer is a common disease and a serious one. Between 4 and 5 people out of every 100 will develop 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.

How does the screening work?
A purple envelope containing a self-sampling test kit will be sent to your home. The test consists of a sampling tube and a set of instructions. The tube has a green cap with a stool sampling stick attached. You take samples at four different places in your stool and insert the stick back into the tube. Then you send the sampling tube to a laboratory using the return envelope provided. There your stool will be tested for traces of blood. These cannot always be seen with the naked eye. Blood in your stool may be a sign of bowel cancer. If blood is found, further examination is needed.

Who coordinates the screening programme?
The screening programme is organized by the government. In your area, the programme is being coordinated by «_SO_NAAM». You may already have heard of this organization in connection with screening programmes for breast cancer or cervical cancer. Your doctor is aware of the screening programme.

Read more over the page
Further details
Would you like to know more about the screening before you take part? If so, please visit www.bevolkingsonderzoekdarmkanker.nl. You can also find out more by calling the «_SO_NAAM» information line on «SO_TEL» (Monday to Friday from 09.00 to 17.00).

Yours sincerely,
On behalf of «_SO_NAAM»

<SO_NAAM_BESTUURDER>
Director

Scan the QR code above with your smartphone and the website www.bevolkingsonderzoekdarmkanker.nl will appear automatically in your internet browser.