

Vooraankondiging (alleen tekst) 2018

Dear <naam>

The national screening programme for bowel cancer was launched in 2014. The screening programme is for all men and women aged 55 to 75. It is to be introduced in phases. When you receive your first invitation to take part in the programme will depend on your year of birth. The invitations are sent throughout the year. The screening programme will be implemented fully by 2019. You can find the invitation summary at www.bevolkingsonderzoekdarmkanker.nl/uitnodigingsoverzicht.

Bowel cancer

Bowel cancer is a serious disease. In the Netherlands, 6 out of every 100 people get bowel cancer. 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 of the estimated 7,000 deaths from bowel cancer each year.

How does the screening programme work?

In about three weeks, you will receive an invitation to take part. A purple envelope containing a stool self-sampling test kit will be sent to your home. The test consists of the container and a set of instructions. The container 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 container. You then send the container 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.

It is up to you whether or not you participate.

Participation in the screening programme is voluntary. The screening programme (stool self-sampling test kit) is free. This is provided and paid for by the government. Any further examination (intake interview and colonoscopy) is not part of the screening. Your health insurance will cover the costs of this examination. You may be obliged to pay the costs, or a part of them, yourself. This depends on your excess amount and how much you have already used of this. For questions about this, please contact your health care insurance provider.

When is it better not to take part?

You do not need to take part in the screening if you are already being treated for bowel cancer. If you have recently had a colonoscopy, or if you are being treated by a gastroenterologist, you should confer with your GP or specialist to determine if participation in the screening programme is advisable.

What if you do not want to participate?

If you will not participate, please deregister. If you do this within six working days after receipt of this letter, you will not receive an invitation. You can deregister by telephone at the Screening Programme 'Zuid-West' information line, telephone number 088 248 20 00 (Monday to Friday from 09.00 to 17.00.) You can also deregister via 'Mijn bevolkingsonderzoek'. 'Mijn bevolkingsonderzoek' is accessible through the website www.bevolkingsonderzoekzuid-west.nl. To log in, you need your DigiD. You can also use the deregistration form. This is added at the bottom of this letter.

Who coordinates the screening programme?

In your area, the programme is being coordinated by Bevolkingsonderzoek Zuid-West. You may already have heard of this organisation in connection with screening programmes for breast cancer or cervical cancer.

More information

Would you already like to know more about the screening programme? Please visit www.bevolkingsonderzoekdarmkanker.nl. This website also contains answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the screening programme and a video titled 'Bevolkingsonderzoek darmkanker'. Please contact your GP if you have any health-related questions. For other questions, please contact the Screening Programme 'Zuid-West' information line, telephone number 088 248 20 00 (Monday to Friday from 09.00 to 17.00.)

Kind regards,

Drs. W.W.J. Spijker

Administrator