

«_SO_NAAM»
t «_SO_TEL»
«_SO_WEBSITEADRES»
«_SO_EMAILADRES»

> **Return address:** Kamerlingh Onneslaan 6, 8218 MA Lelystad

«_CLIENT_NAAM»
«_CLIENT_ADRES»
«_CLIENT_POSTCODE» «_CLIENT_WOONPLAATS»

«_SO_PLAATS», «_DATUM_VANDAAG»
Re: invitations screening programme for bowel cancer

Date of birth:
«_CLIENT_GEBOORTEDATUM»

«_CLIENT_AANHEF»,

We would like to invite you to participate in the screening programme for bowel cancer.

The reason for the screening programme

Bowel cancer is a common disease, and a serious one. In the Netherlands, 6 out of every 100 people get bowel cancer. Most people with bowel cancer are 55 years or older.

The screening programme enables doctors to detect and treat cancer at an early stage, sometimes even before the disease has actually developed. In the longer term, this can help to prevent 2,400 of the estimated 7000 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 'Screening Programme for Bowel Cancer', a set of instructions, a container, a bag and a return envelope.

What happens during the screening?

The invitation is accompanied by a container. The sampling container has a green cap with a stool sampling stick attached. You use this to take samples at four different places in your stool. Only a tiny amount of stool material is needed to perform the test properly. The instructions include a step-by-step description of how to perform the stool self-sampling test properly.

Place the container in the provided bag and send it in the return envelope to the laboratory. Send the container **in a timely manner**. This is important to determine the test result. The laboratory will investigate whether there is blood in your stool. This cannot usually be seen with the naked eye. Blood in your stool may be due to bowel cancer, but there are also a number of other possible causes. Further examination is needed to determine this. The follow-up examination consists of an intake interview and a colonoscopy (an internal examination of the colon.)

The test results

You will receive a letter containing the test results within one to two weeks. Your GP is not automatically informed about your participation and the test results of this screening programme. Would you like your GP to receive a message about an unfavourable test result? If so, report this to the screening organisation as soon as possible and pass on the details of your GP. You can do this through 'Mijn bevolkingsonderzoek' or through our information line.

Cost

Participation in the screening programme is free of charge. Further examination (intake interview and colonoscopy) is not part of the screening. The costs of these tests are covered by your health insurance. 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 insurance provider.

It is up to you whether or not you participate.

Participation in the screening programme is voluntary. It is up to you whether or not you participate. The information in the brochure will help you decide.

When is it better not to take part?

You do not need to take part in the screening programme if you are already being treated for bowel cancer.

Have you had a colonoscopy in the last five years, or have you received treatment from a gastroenterologist or an internist because of your intestines? Please consult your GP or specialist to determine if participation in the screening programme is advisable. Are you unsure about whether to participate? Please consult your GP or the attending physician.

Are you currently experiencing symptoms that might be related to bowel cancer? If so, first consult your GP. The brochure contains more information.

If you will not be participating, we ask you to deregister. You can do this via 'Mijn Bevolkingsonderzoek' or through our information line <<_SO_TEL_DK>> .

Mijn bevolkingsonderzoek (My screening programme)

'Mijn Bevolkingsonderzoek' gives you access to your personal details. Here, you can view your details, change them or add details. You can also go here to deregister for the screening programme. Go to <<_SO_WEBSITEADRES>> and click on the 'Mijn Bevolkingsonderzoek' button. To log in, you need your DigiD.

Further details

The leaflet 'Screening Programme for Bowel Cancer' gives you more information on the screening programme. You can also read more on www.bevolkingsonderzoekdarmkanker.nl. This website also contains answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the screening programme and a video titled 'Bevolkingsonderzoek darmkanker'.

Do you have any questions about your health? If so, please contact your GP. For other questions, please call the <<_SO_NAAM>>, <<_SO_TEL_DK>> information line (<<_SO_OPENINGSTIJDEN_TEKST_DK>>). Our staff will be happy to help you.

Kind regards,

<<_SO_VERTEGENWOORDIGER>>

Annexes:

- leaflet 'Screening Programme for Bowel Cancer'
- instructions for use
- container
- bag
- return envelope