

Vooraankondiging (alleen tekst) : aanpassingen 2017

Dear <naam>

The national bowel cancer screening programme was launched at the start of 2014. The bowel cancer screening programme is for all men and women aged 55 to 75. The screening programme 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 out all year round. The screening programme is expected to be implemented fully by the end of 2019.

Bowel cancer

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 longer term, this can help to prevent 2,400 deaths from bowel cancer each year.

How does the screening work?

In about three weeks, you will receive an invitation to take part. A purple envelope containing a self-sampling test kit will be sent to your home. The test consists of the sampling tube and a set of instructions. The sampling 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, a follow-up examination is needed.

Participation is your decision

Participation in the screening programme is voluntary. The screening examination (the stool test) is free. This is offered and paid for by the government. Any follow-up examination (intake interview and colonoscopy) is not part of the screening. Your health insurance will reimburse 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 insurer.

When is it better not to take part?

If you are already being treated for bowel cancer, you do not have to participate in this programme. If you have recently had a colonoscopy, or if you have been treated by a gastroenterologist or internal specialist, please discuss your participation with your GP or specialist.

Not taking part?

If you do not want to take part, please deregister. If you do this within 6 working days after receipt of this letter, you will not receive an invitation. You can deregister by phone at the information line of the 'Bevolkingsonderzoek Zuid-West', telephone number 088 248 20 00 (Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). You can also deregister via 'Mijn bevolkingsonderzoek'. You can access 'Mijn bevolkingsonderzoek' on the website www.bevolkingsonderzoekzuid-west.nl. Use your DigiD to log on.

Who coordinates the screening programme?

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

More information

Would you like to know more about the screening examination now? Please go to www.bevolkingsonderzoekdarmkanker.nl. This website also contains answers to Frequently Asked Questions and a short video called 'Bevolkingsonderzoek darmkanker'. You can ask your GP any health-related questions. You can ask any other questions by calling the information line of the 'Bevolkingsonderzoek Zuid-West', telephone number 088 248 20 00 (Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

Kind regards,

Drs. W.W.J. Spijker

Administrator