

# Bowel cancer screening

## An easy guide



The NHS invites men and women for bowel cancer screening after their 60th birthday



You can call the freephone helpline for advice on **0800 707 60 60**

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# Bowel cancer screening

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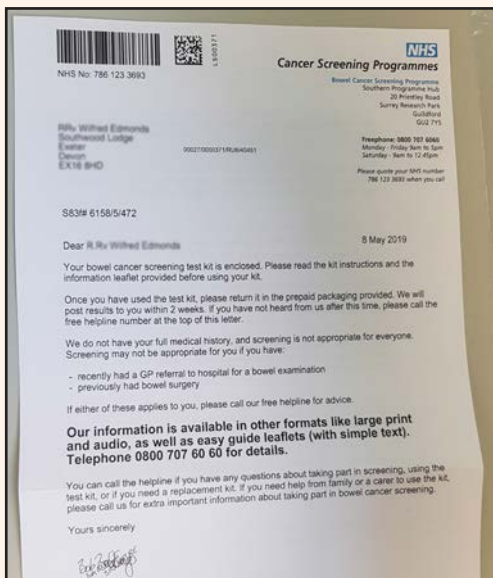
This booklet tells you about the bowel cancer screening test.

After your 60th birthday you get a screening test kit to do at home.



We will send you a box with:

- a test kit



- a letter



- a freepost envelope

# Bowel cancer

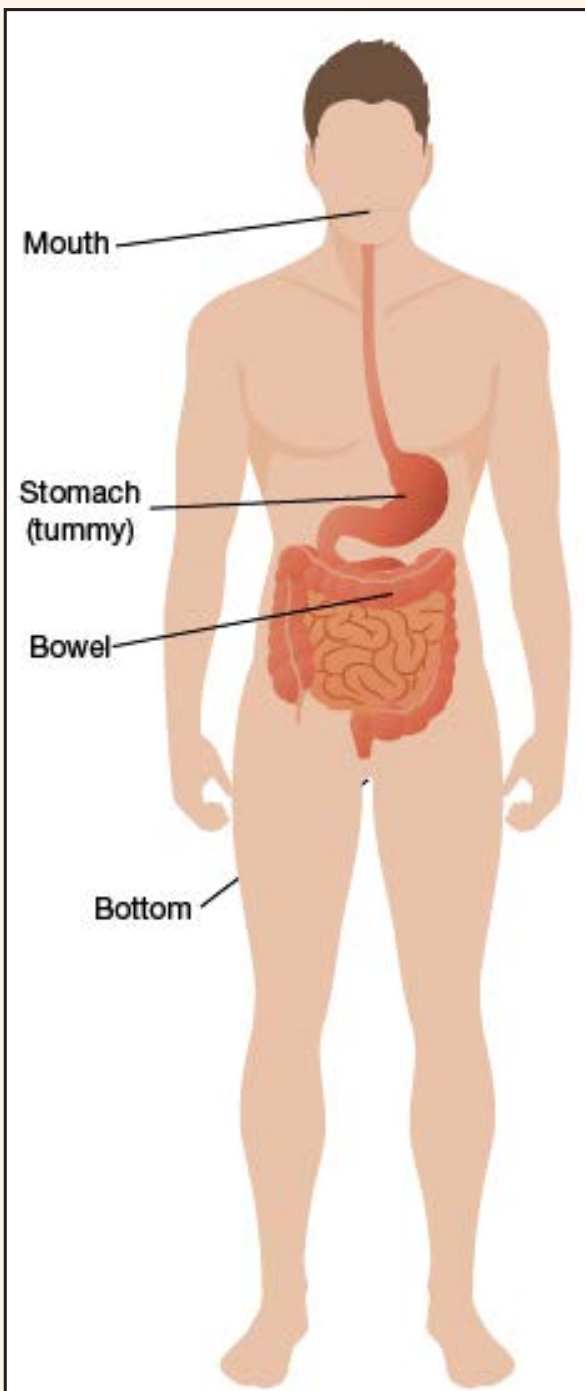
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Some people get a disease called bowel cancer.

This is a serious illness you can die from.

Bowel cancer screening helps find bowel cancer at an early stage.



Your bowel is inside your body.

It connects your stomach (tummy) to your bottom.

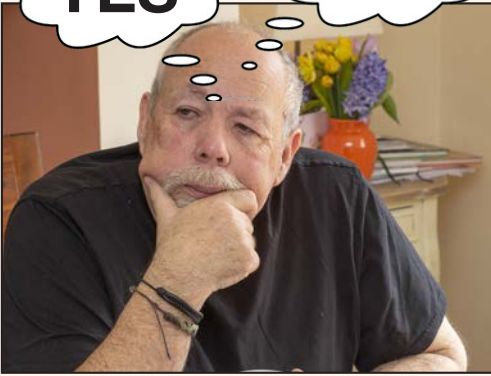
The bowel takes away waste your body does not need.

This is called poo.

## Your choice

YES

NO



It is your choice to do the test or not.



You can talk to your family or carer.

You can talk to a nurse or your doctor.

Or you can call the freephone number on **0800 707 60 60**

### Good points



Doing the screening test can find early signs of bowel cancer.

If bowel cancer is found early you have a better chance of living.

You do the test at home.

### Bad points



The screening test will find most bowel cancers but some can be missed.



# Doing the screening test

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The test looks for tiny amounts of blood in your poo.

You can do the test on your own or you can ask someone to help you.

To do the screening test, you need to collect a small amount of your poo.



To catch your poo you can use:

- toilet paper



- a clean empty container



Write the date on the label of your test kit.



Take the kit into the bathroom.



Put toilet paper inside the container you are using to collect the poo.



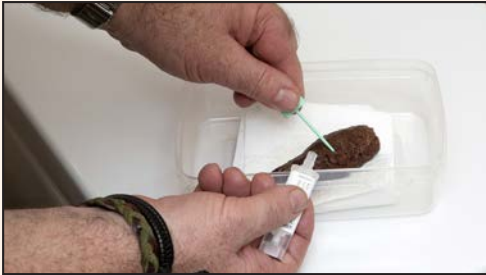
Catch your poo before it goes in the toilet water.



Remove the container from the toilet.



Open the kit.



Wipe the stick through the poo.



Put the stick back into the kit.  
**Click** the lid closed.

Do not reopen the kit.



Tip the poo into the toilet.



Throw the container into a bin.



Wash your hands with soap.





Put your kit into the envelope.



Peel the tape off and stick the envelope down.



You do not need a stamp.



Put the envelope in a post box.

# Screening test results

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You should get a letter within 14 days with your results.



## Little or no blood in poo

You do not need more tests.



## Blood in poo

You may need more tests.

A doctor or nurse will talk to you about your results.



If you have any questions or problems please telephone:  
**0800 707 60 60.**

## Keeping your bowel healthy

Having a healthy bowel can help stop cancer.



Eat 5 pieces of fruit and vegetables every day.

Eat food high in fibre. This includes:



- brown bread



- brown rice



- porridge

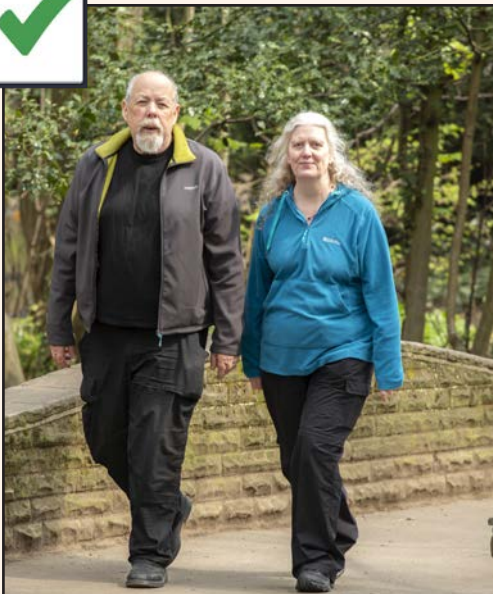
## Keeping your bowel healthy



Drink 6 to 8 glasses of water every day.



Be a healthy weight.



Do more exercise.



Some foods are not good for your bowel if you eat **a lot** of them. They include:



- ham



- bacon



- burgers



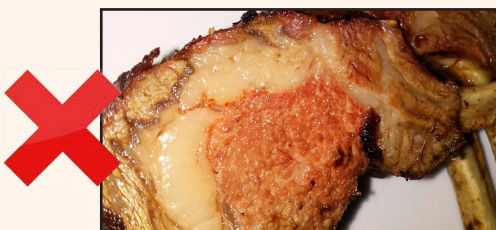
- sausages



- beef



- pork



- lamb



Drinking **a lot** of alcohol is bad for your bowel.



Smoking is bad for your bowel.

# When you should go to your doctor

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You should go to your doctor if:



- you see blood in your poo
- your poo is runny for at least 3 weeks and this is not normal for you



- you stop having a poo and this is not normal for you
- you start to get very bad tummy pains
- you can feel lumps in your tummy



- you lose weight quickly without trying to
- you feel tired **all the time** and this is not normal for you

# More information

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If you have any questions or problems you can:



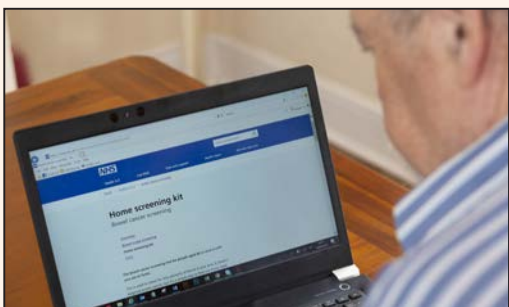
- call **0800 707 60 60**



- book to see your doctor



- visit **[www.bowelcanceruk.org.uk](http://www.bowelcanceruk.org.uk)**



- visit **[www.nhs.uk/bowel](http://www.nhs.uk/bowel)**

With support from Bowel Cancer UK

**First published:** June 2019

**PHE publications gateway number:** GW-447

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Find out how Public Health England and the NHS use and protect your screening information at **[www.gov.uk/phe/screening-data](http://www.gov.uk/phe/screening-data)**.

To opt out of screening, see **[www.gov.uk/phe/screening-opt-out](http://www.gov.uk/phe/screening-opt-out)**.