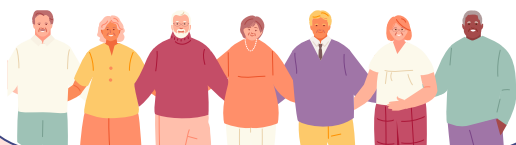


Draft health technology assessment of extending BowelScreen to those aged 50 to 54 years: public consultation

What does this HTA examine?

The assessment examines if people aged 50 to 54 should be included in the BowelScreen programme in the future.

The assessment reviews the health effects, costs, and the impact that including people aged 50 to 54 would have on the people being screened, the health service, and wider society.

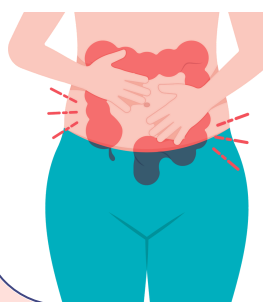


How is bowel cancer screened for in Ireland?

Blood in a person's poo could be a sign of bowel cancer. Screening for bowel cancer involves a person using a home test kit (called a 'FIT') and sending a small sample of poo (stool sample) to a lab for testing. The sample is examined in the lab and if the amount of blood is over a certain level, the person will be invited to go to a hospital to have a colonoscopy.



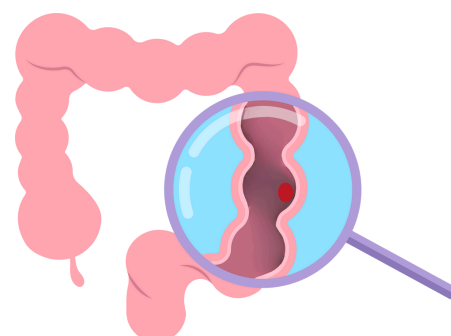
What is BowelScreen?



BowelScreen is a cancer screening programme for bowel cancer (colon or rectal cancer) that was launched in 2012 and currently invites those aged 59 to 70 for screening every two years. The programme is already planning to expand to include those aged 55 to 74.

Is bowel cancer common?

In Ireland, bowel cancer is the second most common cancer in men and the third most common in women. Around 2,750 people are diagnosed with bowel cancer in Ireland each year. Bowel cancer is also the third leading cause of cancer death in Ireland. Around 1,000 people in Ireland die from bowel cancer each year.



What am I being asked to do?

As part of our assessment, we are holding a public consultation from 7 July 2025 until 15 August 2025. We would like to hear your feedback on our draft assessment. You can provide feedback by filling in our consultation form, which is available online and as a paper copy.

