

September 2012

## Cancer Screening Programmes

«ICL\_Organisation\_Name»  
«Address\_Line\_1»  
«Address\_Line\_2»  
«Address\_Line\_3»  
«Address\_Line\_4»  
«Address\_Line\_5»  
«Postcode»

### Bowel Cancer Screening Programme

Southern Programme Hub  
Postgraduate Medical School  
University of Surrey  
Daphne Jackson Road  
Guildford GU2 7WG  
**Free phone: 0800 707 60 60**

Dear Practice Manager/Lead GP

### Just a 'YES' from your practice could help save more lives

My colleagues and I are inviting every general practice in England to allow their practice name to appear on the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme (BCSP) invitation letters. Evidence suggests that doing so will increase the uptake of screening across the country and reduce the number of lives lost due to bowel cancer.

Endorsing the screening programme simply involves allowing the BCSP to add your general practice name, «ICL\_Organisation\_Name», to the invitation letters received by your patients.

### This process of endorsement will not involve any work for your practice.

Once we receive your agreement, your practice name will automatically be added to the NHS BCSP invitation letter (please see an example overleaf).

The 'ASCEND' Project is a national initiative in collaboration with three major universities. This project will measure the effect of GP endorsement on uptake of invitations for bowel cancer screening. Please indicate on the reply slip below if you would like to know how your endorsement improves uptake in your area.

When you have had the opportunity to discuss this letter with your colleagues, we would be grateful if you would reply as soon as possible to us by doing **one** of the following:

- ✉ Complete and return the reply slip below
- ☎ Fax this letter once you have completed the reply slip below to the ASCEND team on 020 7594 3051
- ✉ Email the ASCEND team at [rosemary.howe@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:rosemary.howe@imperial.ac.uk) with your full practice name and code
- ☎ Call the ASCEND team on 020 7594 3272 if you have any questions

Yours faithfully



Professor Stephen Halloran MBE FRCPATH  
Director, Bowel Cancer Screening Programme Hub for the south of England

Please complete this reply slip and either return it in the Freepost envelope provided or post the slip to:  
ASCEND Study Office, c/o Rosemary Howe, Room 505, St Marys Hospital Medical School, Norfolk Place, London, W2 1PG

✂

✂

We agree to our general practice name, «ICL\_Organisation\_Name», being automatically added to the current NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme invitation letters sent to our patients.

«PRACTICE\_CODE»

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**Practice Code**

**Name of Practice Manager/Lead GP**

**Date (dd/mm/yyyy)**

**Signature**

I would like to know how our practice endorsement affected screening uptake (please tick box if s')

25 December 2005

  
*Cancer Screening Programmes*

Mrs Anne B Example-Subject  
Hembury House  
Cheriton  
Shobrooke  
Crediton  
Devon  
YY1 5TT

**Bowel Cancer Screening Programme**  
Southern Programme Hub  
Postgraduate Medical School  
University of Surrey  
Daphne Jackson Road  
Guildford GU2 7WG  
**Free phone: 0800 707 60 60**

Q5 278/7/26

NHS No: 999 000

Dear Mrs Anne Belinda Example-Subject

Your GP practice, «ICL\_Organisation\_Name», supports the Bowel Cancer Screening Programme

This is an invitation to take part in the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme. The programme aims to detect bowel cancer early, when successful treatment and cure is more likely. Screening is offered every two years to people aged 60-69 who are registered with a GP in England. We are starting to extend the screening age range, so if you are aged 70-74, you are being invited as part of this process.

You will be sent a test kit with full instructions in about two weeks. The kit is simple to use in the privacy of your own home. If you want to be screened, wait until the kit arrives, follow the instructions, and return the kit in the **Freepost** envelope provided. You will get your results by letter within 2 weeks.

We do not have your medical history, and screening is not appropriate for everyone. **If you have already been referred to hospital for bowel investigations by your GP, or if you have had previous bowel surgery, then screening may not be appropriate for you. Please call us for advice.** If you don't wish to be screened, then please call and let us know. The **Freephone** number for all calls is at the top of this letter (calls are free from UK landlines).

If you need help from family or a carer in order to use the kit, please call us (or ask them to call us) for further important information. You can also use the **Freephone** number if you have any questions about taking part in the programme. Finally, please take the time to read the enclosed leaflet 'Bowel Cancer Screening - The Facts', which may help to answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely



Prof S P Halloran MBE FRCPATH  
Hub Director