



National
Bowel
Screening
Programme

2012 to 2017 Waitematā Bowel Screening Pilot

A bowel screening pilot ran until December 2017 in the Waitematā District Health Board area.

Preparations for the pilot began in Waitematā in late 2011. Screening as part of round 1 of the pilot began to be offered to eligible people aged 50 to 74 years living in the Waitematā DHB area in January 2012.

The National Bowel Screening Programme (NBSP) was rolled out across all regions starting in July 2017. The Waitematā pilot transitioned to the National Bowel Screening Programme in January 2018.

From July 2017, the same positivity threshold (the amount of blood in the sample that triggers a positive result) was used for the pilot as for the NBSP.

Why New Zealand did this pilot

Bowel cancer is one of New Zealand's most common cancers and the second highest cause of cancer death. More than 3300 New Zealanders are diagnosed with bowel cancer each year and more than 1200 die from it. Bowel screening can help detect cancer at an early stage when it can often be successfully treated.

Information from the Waitematā DHB bowel screening pilot has helped inform decisions about the NBSP. Data collected during the pilot has provided vital information on participation levels, cancer detection rates and the impact on health services.

It is best practice internationally to pilot a screening programme before offering it more widely, to ensure it is safe for participants, there is capacity to provide timely diagnostic and treatment services and that all processes are working correctly.

Further information

Further information about the Waitematā bowel screening pilot is available by emailing the NBSP at bowelscreening@tewhatuora.govt.nz.

The NBSP can provide the following documents, please specify in your email which one's you would like.

Background reports

- Next Steps Towards a Feasibility Study for Colorectal Cancer Screening in New Zealand: Report for the Ministry of Health
- Bowel Screening Pilot Interim Quality Standards
- The Bowel Screening Pilot Service Delivery Model (SDM)
- The Bowel Screening Pilot Endoscopy Manual

Evaluation reports

- Independent Assurance Review for the National Bowel Screening Programme
- Independent Assurance Review for the NBSP Six-Month Report to February 2019
- Bowel Cancer Quality Improvement Report 2019
- Bowel Cancer Quality Performance Indicator Specifications
- Bowel Cancer Quality Performance Indicators: Descriptions 2019

- Referral Criteria for Direct Access Outpatient Colonoscopy or Computed Tomography Colonography
- Final Evaluation Report of the Bowel Screening Pilot: Screening Rounds One and Two
- Interim Evaluation Report of the Bowel Screening Pilot: Screening Round One
- Management of Early Colorectal Cancer

Monitoring indicators

- Understanding the 15 monitoring indicators for the bowel screening pilot.

Results

- How many people took part in the bowel screening pilot?
- Which population groups were most likely to take part in the pilot?
- Were there any problems with the returned kits?
- How many colonoscopies were performed?
- How many cancers were found?
- Was the complication rate for colonoscopy what should be expected?
- The Bowel Screening Pilot's monitoring indicators
- Additional analyses

Missed invitations

- Summary of an incident that saw some Waitemata residents missing out on an invitation to participate in the bowel screening pilot.