

National Bowel Cancer Screening Program

Preparing your practice

The Australian Government's National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) provides a free faecal occult blood test (FOBT) for eligible participants in the mail.

Those eligible for the first phase of the NBCSP include:

- people turning 55 or 65 between 1 May 2006 and 30 June 2008 and
- people previously invited to participate in the pilot program regardless of current address.

Participants who receive a positive test result (i.e. blood found in their bowel motion) will be encouraged to visit a GP for assessment and to arrange follow-up testing, usually a colonoscopy.

This checklist is designed to help your practice prepare for consultations with participants of the program.

Practice preparation

The NBCSP has been discussed at a practice meeting.

An NBCSP Information Kit is available to each GP or is centrally located in the practice.

More copies available from the NBCSP Information Line: 1800 118 868

NHMRC *Clinical practice guidelines for the prevention, early detection and management of colorectal cancer: A guide for general practitioners* accessible to all staff.

Available from www.cancerscreening.gov.au under Program Resources

Reminder systems are set up to identify patients eligible for the program during the first phase (those turning 55 or 65 between 1 May 2006 and 30 June 2008).

System in place where patients who receive a positive FOBT are phoned and offered an appointment through a recall system.

Each GP has completed a once only *Payment Account Details for Service Provider Form* (orange form) to receive payments. Practice staff can assist with this.

GPs are aware a copy of Assessment Form *Referred for Colonoscopy/Not Referred for Colonoscopy Following a Positive FOBT Result* (blue triplicate forms) must be submitted for each patient with a positive FOBT. NBCSP participant stickers and reply paid stickers are available to all GPs.

More forms and stickers can be ordered from NBCSP Information Line: 1800 118 868

Staff know the Victorian Designated Providers (14 public hospitals contracted to provide colonoscopy in 30 days) and other colonoscopy providers in the area (waiting times will vary). Divisions can assist with this.

System is in place for follow up of test results and incomplete referrals.

System is in place for providing FOBTs (at patient cost) on request to patients aged over 50 but not yet eligible for the NBCSP (as per NHMRC guidelines).

Bulk FOBTs available from Enterix: 1800 556 575 or www.enterix.com.au

Please note that the Bayer Detect FOBT used by the NBCSP is not commercially available at this time.

GPs and staff are aware of education opportunities and support offered by the local Division of General Practice.

Patient education

Bowel cancer prevention information and resources are available in English and other languages.

Resources available from the Cancer Council: 13 11 20 or www.cancervic.org.au under About Cancer.

Staff are able to demonstrate how to complete a NBCSP FOBT.

Spare kits available from the NBCSP Information Line: 1800 118 868

Staff are aware that NBCSP information, including FOBT instructions, is available in languages other than English.

Translated instructions available from www.cancerscreening.gov.au

Electronic templates of the NBCSP *Assessment Forms* are approved by Medicare Australia and are available to upload for use in the following medical software packages: Medical Director, GP Complete, ZedMed, General Practice and Medtech32.

Please note these forms still need to be printed. One copy must be faxed to the NBCSP Register, one copy attached to the colonoscopy referral and one copy kept in the patient's notes.

Templates, uploading instructions and more information can be found at **www.cancervic.org.au/generalpractice under 'Resources for General Practice'**.

For further information

NBCSP Information Line 1800 118 868
www.cancerscreening.gov.au

NBCSP Toll-Free Fax Line 1800 115 062

FOBT Helpline 1300 738 365

Translating & Interpreting Service 13 14 50

The Cancer Council Helpline 13 11 20

The Cancer Council Victoria website
www.cancervic.org.au