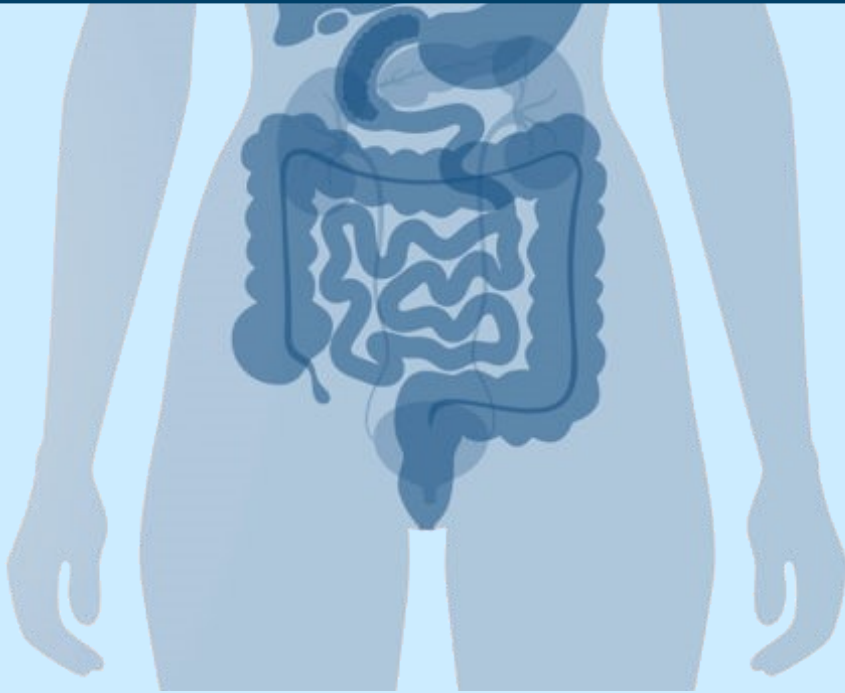


Bowel Cancer Screening



Bowel cancer is the 4th most common type of cancer. Regular screening can help prevent bowel cancer or find it at an early stage, when it's easier to treat.

A home test kit, called a faecal immunochemical test (FIT), will be mailed out to you, to collect a small sample of poo and send it to a lab. This is checked for tiny amounts of blood.

Blood can be a sign of polyps or bowel cancer. Polyps are growths in the bowel. They are not cancer, but may turn into cancer over time.

If the test finds anything unusual, you might be asked to go to hospital to have further tests to confirm or rule out cancer.

Symptoms of bowel cancer may include:

- ⇒ **changes in your poo, such as having softer poo, diarrhoea or constipation that is not usual for you**
- ⇒ **needing to poo more or less often than usual for you**
- ⇒ **blood in your poo, which may look red or black**
- ⇒ **bleeding from your bottom**
- ⇒ **often feeling like you need to poo, even if you've just been to the toilet**
- ⇒ **tummy pain**
- ⇒ **bloating**
- ⇒ **losing weight without trying**
- ⇒ **feeling very tired for no reason**

Always see a GP if you have symptoms of bowel cancer at any age, even if you have recently completed a bowel cancer screening test kit – **do not wait until the next round of screening.**

Bowel cancer screening test kits are sent to everyone between the age of 50 to 74 and repeated every 2 years.

If you're due bowel screening, you'll receive an invite letter and kit in the post, it's important you don't ignore it.

If you missed your previous appointment or are unsure if you are due a screening, please **contact 28000** and we will book you an appointment if you're due.



Public
Health
Unit

Contact the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital on **28000**.