

Condition	Bowel Cancer
Application Type	Modification to Existing Screening Programme
Target Population	Adults aged 60 to 69 who are eligible to partake in the BowelScreen programme
Date(s) Considered	17 February 2022
Decision Date	17 February 2022
Recommendation /	Approve
Decision	
Background	This proposal concerning the BowelScreen programme was received by the National Screening Advisory Committee (NSAC) from the National Screening Service BowelScreen programme, in response to the first Annual Call for proposals, which ran during November and December 2021. At the February 2022 NSAC meeting the Committee considered and approved the proposal of the BowelScreen Programme to adopt the British Society of Gastroenterology /Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland/Public Health England post-polypectomy and post colorectal cancer resection surveillance guidelines to ensure that BowelScreen is aligned with current clinical practice across the symptomatic service in the HSE. These guidelines have also been endorsed by the HSE National Endoscopy Programme. This change will update the current surveillance pathways for people who, after their initial screening test, go on to have a colonoscopy and removal of pre-cancerous polyps, and will have the operational effect of changing the frequency of post-
	polypectomy surveillance for some patients. While this change relates to the surveillance pathway (post the primary screening test), the proposal came to the NSAC as patients requiring post-polypectomy surveillance colonoscopy have their procedures performed under the BowelScreen programme which falls within the remit of NSAC.

Evidence & Information	
Considered by NSAC	 The proposal was received from the National Screening Service's (NSS) BowelScreen programme, in response to the first NSAC Annual Call 2021 along with references and appropriate supporting documentation. The new guidelines were jointly commissioned by the British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG), the Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland (ACPGBI) and the English Bowel Cancer on Screening Programme (BCSP) (Public Health England; PHE) and supported by NHS England (NHSE). These guidelines were underpinned by evidence reviews by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) referenced in the submission Preliminary analysis of available datasets suggests that implementation of these new guidelines may reduce the number of people entering post-polypectomy surveillance to around a quarter to a third of that of the previous low-/intermediate-/high-risk cohort.
Reasons for Decision	The recommendation has been based on a review of documentation of national and international evidence presented to the NSAC in accordance with the criteria for appraising applications which was considered and approved at its 17 February 2022 meeting.
Conditions of Decision	N/A
Observations / Recommendations	N/A
Monitoring	N/A
Review	To be reviewed as agreed by Committee in line with its Terms of Reference and work programme.
Further Reading	About BowelScreen Programme About Colonoscopy after bowel screening - HSE.ie