IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT BOWEL CANCER AND HOME SCREENING.

• Bowel cancer is the third most common cancer in Scotland (after lung cancer and breast cancer). Almost 4,000 people get it every year.

• The older you get the higher your risk of developing bowel cancer. It’s more common in people over 50, especially men.

• If it’s detected early enough, there’s a 9 out of 10 chance of beating it. That’s because the sooner it’s found the easier it is to treat.

• The whole point of doing the screening test is to find bowel cancer early, even if you’ve had no obvious symptoms and you feel fine.

• Home screening prevents around 150 deaths every year in Scotland.

• The test picks up most but not every bowel cancer – because it looks for hidden blood and not all cancers bleed.

• Right now, only 55% of Scots who are the right age for the home screening test actually take it.

BOWEL CANCER.
DON’T TAKE A CHANCE.
TAKE THE TEST.

If you just want to find out a little bit more about bowel cancer, including its signs and symptoms, go online to www.nhsinform.co.uk or call 0800 22 44 88.

In fact if you have any worries at all, even between screenings, you should make an appointment with your doctor. Your GP wants to hear from you.

If you live in Scotland and you’re between 50 and 74 years old – and you haven’t completed a bowel screening test in the past two years – you can ask about getting one:

call the helpline 0800 0121 833 or go online www.bowelscreeningtest.org

There’s more information about the facts in this leaflet at www.bowelscreeningtest.org
HOME SCREENING CAN BE LIFE-SAVING. You don’t have to take part in bowel screening. It’s your choice. The NHS in Scotland offers it to everyone between the ages of 50 and 74 to help bring down the number of bowel cancer deaths every year.

Screening can’t stop people getting cancer but it does save lives by finding cancer at its earliest stages when there’s a better chance of treating it successfully. Think what you’d say to your best mate, then say it to yourself: “The test isn’t difficult. Three visits to the toilet and you’re done.” For some people the whole thing can feel a wee bit embarrassing. But when you think what’s at stake, it’s well worth just getting on with it.

The bowel cancer screening test is sent to you at home through the post. You do it yourself, in the toilet, in complete privacy. To take the test, all you have to do is put three small samples of your poo onto a special card, using special sample sticks. It’s simple and clean. When you’re done, just pop your card in the post to the Scottish Bowel Screening Centre laboratory for testing. The address is printed on the front of the envelope and it’s free and perfectly safe to send. If you want to find out a bit more about how to do the test, you can go online and watch a short film. But if you have a question, or would like a copy of the film on DVD, just call the helpline. The advisers will be glad to help you and they’ll respect your privacy.

Don’t just sit there worrying. These symptoms can be caused by a few conditions, not just bowel cancer. But if you’ve noticed any of them yourself, you need to tell your doctor right away. Some people are too embarrassed to do this or they think their doctor’s too busy. That’s just not true. Your GP wants to hear from you. So if you’re worried about anything at all, even in between screenings, you should make an appointment as soon as you can. You’re not wasting anyone’s time and you could be saving your own life or the life of somebody you love.