

Screening stories

Judith's story



When the home-based test kit arrived Judith just put it to one side as she thought it was going to be too much work. However, when she did get around to doing it, she realised how quick and easy it was. Like most people, Judith got a 'normal' result, which she found to be very reassuring. For Judith, doing the test kit made her feel more in control of her health.

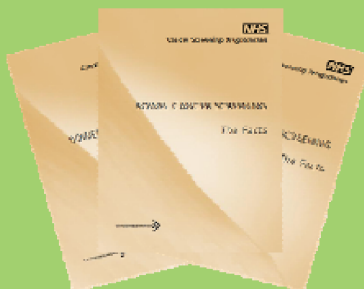
Chandul's story

Chandul did the test kit soon after it arrived through his letterbox. The results were 'abnormal' so he went to have a follow-up test at the bowel cancer screening centre. A few small growths were found in his bowel and removed for further testing. Much to his relief, they were found to be clear of cancer. Removing these growths was still very important because they could have turned into cancer over time. He now tells his friends that doing the test kit is simple and nothing to worry about.



Please keep this leaflet.
You may want to look over it again
when the test kit arrives.

For more information about bowel cancer
screening, please read the booklet
"Bowel Cancer Screening: The Facts"



You can also call the helpline on
0800 707 60 60

We would like to thank everyone who shared
their experience of bowel cancer screening
and helped to develop this leaflet.

Developed by University College London, 2012

Shared Experiences

This leaflet shows you what some
people say about taking part in
the NHS Bowel Cancer
Screening Programme
in England.



NHS

National Institute for
Health Research

The screening programme aims to find bowel cancer early.



"It is just like having breast screening as the test can pick up whatever is wrong before it develops into something bigger. If

the doctors find something early it can be dealt with, and if they don't find anything then you're happy."

(Hyacinth)

Most people (98 out of 100) will get a 'normal' result from the test kit.



"When I got my reply to say everything was clear I was delighted. It was such a relief."

(Cynthia)

Bowel cancer often has no early warning signs.

"I was very lucky to have had the cancer picked up through screening. I had no symptoms at all so I would not have known anything was wrong. By the time I had got any symptoms, it would probably have been a lot more serious."

(Maureen)



A small number of people (2 out of 100) will get an 'abnormal' result and will be offered a follow-up test. Most abnormal test results are not caused by cancer.

"I went and spoke to a very nice lady who explained that even though people get a call back they don't often get a cancer result. I felt a lot calmer after the appointment. I had the follow-up test the following Monday. It wasn't a bad procedure. They found two growths, which were removed. The results were fine and everything was ok."

(Monica)



When bowel cancer is found through the screening programme it is likely to be at an early stage. Bowel cancer can be successfully treated if found early.



is no doubt in my mind, I would not be alive today."

(Harold)

The screening programme uses a home-based test kit. Most people find the test kit easy to use.

"My first thought about the test kit was that it was going to be messy, but it didn't actually prove to be."

(Roger)

