

The National Bowel Cancer Screening Program

You may see patients or have queries from patients who have turned 55 **or** 65 between 1st May 2006 and 30th June 2007 and have received a bowel cancer screening kit (Faecal Occult Blood Test - FOBT) in the mail. Ideally patients will complete the test and send it back to the pathology lab in the pre paid envelopes provided. Patients are asked to nominate a GP or Practice for the test results to be sent to, as well as being sent to themselves and the Medicare register.

Upon receiving a positive FOBT result patients are encouraged to make an appointment with their GP to discuss the results. Depending on the patients circumstances you may need to refer them for a colonoscopy and manage them according to your practice policies and procedures.

All practices should have received a National Bowel Cancer Screening – Information Kit – Please contact the **Information Line** on: **1800 118 868** if you didn't receive a kit.

NB: Non PIP registered practices won't have received a kit as their details aren't on the Medicare database used for this program, these practices are still eligible for this program but will need to call the info line to get a kit)

The kit contains all the information you need to know about this program as well as the forms that you need to fill out for payment and sending results back to the Medicare register.

Information covered in kit that may be of interest:

- Your role in this program
- The screening pathway
- Your duty of care (if a patient with a positive FOBT doesn't contact the clinic and you know that they have a positive result as you have received a copy of the results)
- Payment arrangements

Important to know:

- If you want to receive payment for the program you must fill out a "Payment Account Details for Service Provider Form" and fax to: 03 6281 0554. If this isn't filled out you will not receive any payments associated with this program. If you require a form please phone the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program **Information Line** on: **1800 118 868**.
- You must notify the register (on the forms provided) of the outcomes for all patients that attend as a part of the program. Even if you are not referring the patient on for a colonoscopy please advise the register of the outcome. A payment to you of \$6.60 (GST inclusive) applies. Forms can be faxed to the register on **free fax** number: **1800 115 062**
- When referring your patient for colonoscopy, please attach a National Bowel Cancer Screening Program Participant sticker (provided in the kit) to the colonoscopy referral letter. This sticker will identify your patient as a program participant.
- Concerns have been raised about colonoscopy waiting times for public patients, especially if they have received a positive FOBT result, patients will be anxious to find out the results of their colonoscopy and waiting 4 months isn't ideal. An arrangement has been made with DHS for some hospitals to provide a colonoscopy to patients referred through this program within 30 days of receiving the referral. Two hospitals that have agreed to this are: Dandenong and Monash Clayton. This is why it is important that you put the stickers on the referral letter to identify the patients as a part of this program.

For more information:

- Visits www.cancervic.org.au/generalpractice and click on the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program and General Practice Link
- Contact Michelle Guille at the Division on: 9706 7311.