

1.1 Foreword

Following successful evaluation of the UK colorectal cancer screening pilot the Bowel Screening Programme commenced roll out across Scotland from June 2007 with all NHS Boards participating in the Programme from December 2009.

All men and women between the ages of 50 – 74 are being invited to participate in the programme through completion of a faecal occult blood test at home every two years. The Community Health Index (CHI) is the key patient identifier throughout the screening episode.

A Scottish Bowel Screening Centre has been established at Kings Cross Hospital in Dundee consisting of the call-recall office, helpline and laboratory. When implementation is complete around 800,000 people will be issued with home test kits every year and individuals will be screened once every two years. The central laboratory carries out the tests on the home test kits and the centre refers positive screening test results via the Bowel Screening IT System (BoSS) directly to the relevant local colorectal service for further investigations.

This Scottish Bowel Screening Manual brings together the experience of the UK colorectal cancer screening pilot, in particular the Scottish pilot site, to help health professionals. It sets out the background to the programme, the programme specification, more information about the Bowel Screening Centre along with identifying roles and responsibilities for the programme. The manual will help ensure that NHS Boards operate to a common set of protocols and procedures.

The Manual will be published on the Bowel Screening website at <http://www.bowelscreening.scot.nhs.uk/> and will be developed over time based on the evidence, experiences and feedback from health professionals involved in the national programme.

Further information about the programme is available from
National Services Division on 0131 275 6107.

I hope you find this manual helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. C. Steele'.

Professor Bob Steele
Lead Clinician
Scottish Bowel Screening Programme