



**Homerton  
University Hospital**  
NHS Foundation Trust

**NE London Bowel Cancer Screening Centre**  
**Homerton University Hospital**  
NHS Foundation Trust  
Homerton Row  
London E9 6SR

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear GP Practice Managers

**RE: Cessation of NHS Bowel Scope Screening Programme**

Following the outcome of a UK National Screening Committee submission to the Secretary of State, NHS England/Improvement (NHSE/I) has permanently discontinued the Bowel Scope as part of the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme. As this service had already been paused due to Covid-19, this discontinuation has been applied with immediate effect.

This decision has been made within the context of a prioritisation and risk-based improvement to the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme with a view to extending the home testing programme to include 50-59 year olds from 1 April 2021.

In making this decision NHSE/I considered the following:

- The introduction of FIT testing into the programme in 2019 which has enabled more sensitive testing;
- Implementation of age extension into the programme over the next four years which aims to reduce inequities in service provisions that were created by Bowel Scope roll out to cover only the population of 60% of GP practices, across England;
- The UKNSC recommendation to consider decommission Bowel Scope when FIT was available to 55-year-olds;

Agreement was made at the NHSE/I BSCP Programme Board that patients invited for but not receiving a Bowel Scope will be offered a FIT kit test from April 2021.

The Screening Centre has worked with NHSE/I to develop an exit plan and ensure the safe and smooth transfer of patients to the wider screening programme.

Thank you for your on-going support with the programme so far, and we look forward to working with your practices to roll out age extension across the sector and provide health promotion support where required.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Laura Marelli  
Director, North East London Bowel Cancer Screening Centre.