



National cancer screening programs

Australia's national cancer screening programs aim to prevent cancer through regular testing and early detection. At present, there are three national programs; breast, bowel, and cervical screening. A fourth, the lung cancer screening program, is due to launch in mid-2025.

As a healthcare provider, you have an important role to play in the cancer screening programs, with patients more likely to take part in a program if a healthcare provider recommends participation.

National Cancer Screening Register

You can access information about your patients' participation in the National Cervical Screening and National Bowel Cancer Screening Programs through the National Cancer Screening Register (NCSR).

Use the NCSR Healthcare Provider Portal to:

- » check a patient's bowel and cervical screening history
- » lodge clinical forms in relation to both programs electronically
- » order patients a new bowel testing kit.

If your practice uses Best Practice, MedicalDirector, or Communicare, you can now integrate your software with the NCSR to view your patients' cervical screening record directly within a patient record. All other users can access patient screening records via Provider Digital Access (PRODA).

Useful resource

Accessing the NCSR Healthcare Provider Portal



<https://bit.ly/3XLIGD2>



NQPHN acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's First Nation Peoples and the Traditional Custodians of this land. We respect their continued connection to land and sea, country, kin, and community. We also pay our respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging as the custodians of knowledge and lore.



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National Bowel Cancer Screening Program

Bowel cancer is one of the most common cancers in Australia. The National Bowel Cancer Screening Program reduces illness and death from bowel cancer by detecting the early signs of the disease using a free, simple test that can be done at home.

Many patients are more likely to complete the test after discussing the process with a trusted healthcare provider. As a general practitioner or practice nurse, you play an important role in helping your patients make informed decisions about bowel cancer screening.

The program is supported by the National Cancer Screening Register which has a Healthcare Provider Portal which is a secure environment to access and submit screening data.

You can also use the portal to:

- » bulk order bowel screening kits for your practice and register a kit issue to a patient
- » access your patient's bowel and cervical screening results and histories online
- » prepare for patient appointments by checking if they are due for screening or follow up
- » submit forms and reports electronically
- » update your patient's information
- » order a bowel screening kit to be sent to a patient's home address.

National Cervical Screening Program

The National Cervical Screening Program aims to prevent cervical cancer with regular testing. The cervical screening test replaced the Pap test in 2017, is less invasive, and can be completed in a few minutes.

Women and people with a cervix aged 25 to 74 are invited to have a cervical screening test every five years. Cervical screening is done through your doctor, nurse, or health worker, with an option for self-collection.

The National Cervical Screening Program is fully integrated with the NCSR. As a healthcare provider, you can use the NCSR website to:

- » check patient screening histories
- » receive reminders for patients overdue for screening or follow-up
- » check and update patient details
- » manage patient program participation
- » submit information about your patient, such as colposcopy information
- » nominate other people to assist your patient, including another doctor or a personal representative.

The Healthcare Provider toolkit can help you and your practice support patients before, during, and after a screening appointment and tailor support to specific groups of people.

Useful resources

National Bowel Cancer Screening Program clinical resources



<https://bit.ly/47L5qqI>

Health professional's role in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program



<https://bit.ly/47rp8aI>

Useful resources

National Cervical Screening Program evidence-based clinical practice guidelines



<https://bit.ly/3Xwc26S>

National Cervical Screening Program patient education and support resources



<https://bit.ly/4eudaz7>

BreastScreen Australia

BreastScreen Australia strives to detect cancer as early as possible with the aim to improve the likely outcomes for women with the disease.

Every state and territory operate a BreastScreen Australia service, and invites women aged between 50 and 74 years to have a mammogram every two years. Women aged between 40 and 49 or 75 years and over can still access a free mammogram, however they won't receive an invitation in the mail.

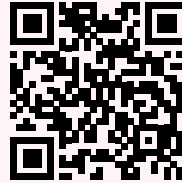
Your practice can utilise its clinical reminder systems to proactively identify women who are due for their breast screen.

You can increase women's confidence in breast screening by helping them to understand:

- » the benefits and limitations of screening mammograms
- » the need for regular screening every two years
- » breast cancer symptoms
- » treatment options.

Useful resources

Guidance for the management of early breast cancer



<https://bit.ly/3BaMNQo>

Information about BreastScreen Queensland



<https://bit.ly/3MUo5WJ>

BreastScreen health professional resources



<https://bit.ly/4ehv0VQ>

Further information and resources

Access more healthcare professional cancer screening information, links, and resources at www.nqphn.com.au/healthcare-professional/support-your-practice/cancer-screening-programs or scan the QR code.

For support, please contact the Northern Queensland Primary Health Network Primary Care Engagement team at pce@nqphn.com.au



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