

Main Surgery:  
208 Farnborough Road  
Farnborough  
Hampshire  
GU14 7JN



Branch Surgery:  
Links Way  
Farnborough  
Hampshire  
GU14 0NA

01252 545078

[www.VoyagerFamilyHealth.co.uk](http://www.VoyagerFamilyHealth.co.uk)

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## **Bowel Cancer Screening Reminder**

Dear Patient,

We recently received a letter from the NHS bowel cancer screening programme informing us that you did not respond to their invitations to take part. This is of some concern to me. Bowel cancer often causes few symptoms in the early stages. This simple screening test will 'flag up' most patients in need of further testing.

A negative test does not completely rule out bowel cancer but most patients who have the disease will have a positive test.

Bowel cancer is the second commonest cause of cancer death in the UK (after lung cancer). 41,317 people in the UK were diagnosed with bowel between 2015-2017 and there were 16,272 deaths between 2015-2017

Sadly, Voyager Family Health loses about five patients a year to this disease and we are very keen to reduce this figure to the minimum achievable with the tools available to us. To succeed in this we need your help. If we wait for patients to have symptoms, it is often too late.

If you would like to reconsider taking part in the screening service, if you still have the kit, check the expiration date on the package and, if still in date, follow the instructions on the package. If the kit is out of date, or you no longer have it, **please contact the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme on their freephone number: 0800 707 6060** so that they can arrange for you to receive a fresh invitation and kit.

Yours sincerely

Dr G Micklethwaite  
Senior Partner