**BOWEL SCREENING CAN SAVE LIVES**

Everyone in England over 60 is invited to take part in bowel cancer screening. You will be offered a free screening test every two years until you reach the age of 75.

**What does the test involve?**

You will be sent a kit to collect small samples of your poo and post them to a laboratory so that they can be checked for tiny amounts of blood (which could be caused by cancer). The results will be sent to you by post, and also to your doctor.

**What are the benefits?**

Completing the test lowers your risk of dying from bowel cancer.

Screening can pick up cancers at an early stage, and these can be successfully treated in more than nine out of ten cases.

.Screening can also find non-cancerous growths (polyps) in the bowel that may develop into cancer in the future. Removing them in time can reduce your risk of getting bowel cancer.

The test itself is of course harmless but it only finds what is there at the time. Bowel cancer can develop in the two years between your screening tests, so it is important to speak to your GP if you notice any blood in your poo or any changes that last longer than a couple of weeks.

*Sent by Drs Virmani and Bedi’s Patient Participation Group.*