Surveillance for Bowel Cancer
Screening Guidelines

1. Average risk
No close family history of bowel cancer.

**Screening recommendation:** FOB testing alternate years from age 50.

2. Slightly above average risk
One first degree relative diagnosed age >55.

**Screening recommendation:** Same as for the average-risk population. Currently no indication for colonoscopy unless alarm symptoms present. Alternate year FOB testing from age 50.

3. Moderately increased risk
First degree relative diagnosed age <55.
Or two first degree; or one first degree and one second degree relative(s) on the same side of the family with bowel cancer diagnosed at any age.

**Screening recommendation:** Refer for colonoscopy at five yearly intervals starting at age 50, or 10 years younger than the age of the earliest diagnosis of Colorectal Cancer in the family, whichever comes first.

4. High risk (50% or higher risk of cancer)
Hereditary Non Polyposis Colorectal Cancer (HNPCC) family members, Familial Adenomatous Polyposis.

Suspicion of a high-risk syndrome should be raised when two or more close relatives are affected; Colorectal Cancer has been diagnosed at an early age (the earlier the age, the higher the degree of suspicion); or certain syndrome–specific characteristics are present.

**Screening recommendation:** Will probably require colonoscopy annually beginning at age 25 or 10 years younger than earliest age of diagnosis of Colorectal Cancer.

Will require genetic assessment.

Please refer patient to a specialist centre for surveillance decisions.

*NH&MRC Guidelines for colonoscopy 2005
Digestive Health Network Colonoscopy services model of care 2007*