National Cancer Screening Register

PRIMARY CARE ONBOARDING KIT

A guide to help healthcare providers and staff make the most of the NCSR integration and support their patients in bowel, cervical and lung cancer screening.
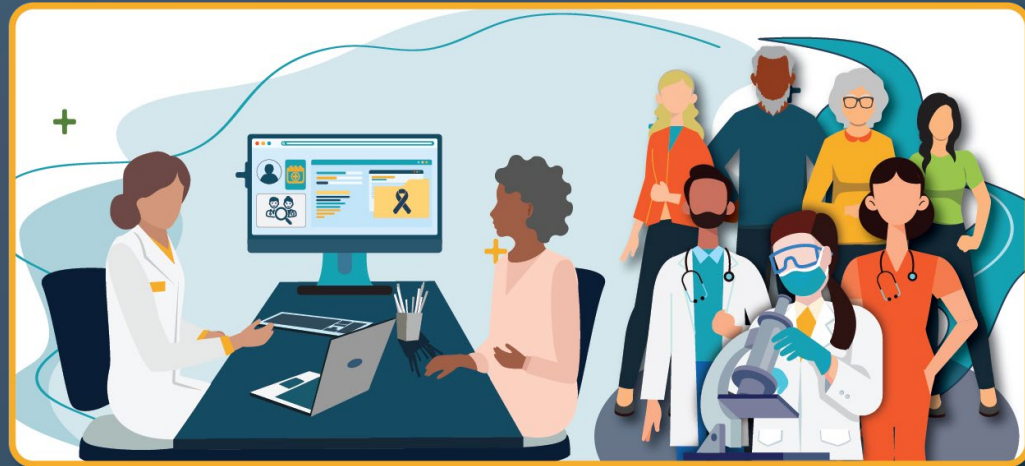
Created: September 2024
Last updated: July 2025

Australian Government

NATIONAL CANCER SCREENING REGISTER

CONTENTS

WELCOME TO THE
NATIONAL CANCER SCREENING REGISTER

Effective cancer screening programs rely on registers to invite, remind, and follow up with participants, while generating data to inform policy and improve care quality.

The National Cancer Screening Register (NCSR) was established by the Australian Government to support bowel, cervical and lung cancer screening, from eligibility and participation through to diagnosis, management, follow-up, and reporting.

The NCSR is a world-first interoperable platform that underpins the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program, National Cervical Screening Program and the National Lung Cancer Screening Program.

These life-saving programs exist to reduce cancer-associated mortality through early detection and treatment and achieve the shared goal of eliminating cervical cancer as a public health issue by 2035, preventing hundreds of deaths each year from lung cancer and saving over 80,000 lives from bowel cancer by 2040, if participation in the program is increased to 60%.

The NCSR supports the operations of these programs by:
• Maintaining a digital record for each participant,
• Sending invitations and reminders, including bowel screening test kits, and
• Following up with individuals who have abnormal results.

The NCSR offers a standardised interface (REST FHIR API 2.0) that integrates seamlessly with primary care and specialist patient management software, allowing users to access and report patient screening information directly from the software they use daily.

This onboarding kit is designed to help you maximise the benefits of the NCSR integration and includes important resources for supporting patients in bowel, cervical and lung cancer screening.

We hope you find it valuable as you work to improve cancer screening outcomes for your patients.

Prof. Dorota Gertig,
NCSR Medical Director

Find out more about the NCSR
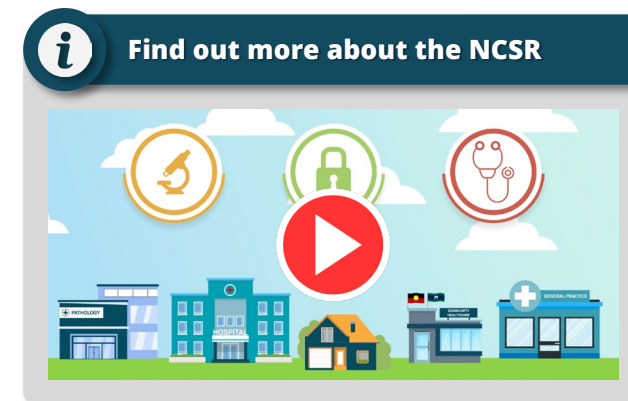
WHY INTEGRATE WITH THE
NATIONAL CANCER SCREENING REGISTER?

Australian Government | NATIONAL **CANCER** SCREENING REGISTER

[Research shows](#) patients are more likely to participate in cancer screening after discussing it with a trusted healthcare provider.

Improved access to patient screening information is vital for facilitating meaningful conversations to highlight the life-saving potential of early detection and address any concerns about the screening process.

The integration allows healthcare providers to access and submit comprehensive screening information for the bowel, cervical and lung cancer screening programs, directly from the practice management software they use daily.

Integrating with the NCSR supports personalised healthcare, empowering providers to proactively manage and promote participation in Australia's bowel, cervical and lung cancer screening programs.

By integrating your clinical software with the NCSR, you're not just improving practice efficiency — you're contributing to a nationwide effort to reduce deaths from bowel, cervical and lung cancer.

Find out more about the benefits of integrating your clinical software with the NCSR
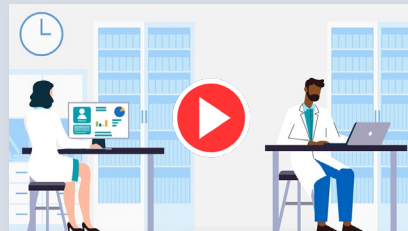
Visit NCSR.gov.au/integrations

INTEGRATION PARTNERS:

Bp Best Practice Premier — FIND OUT MORE

MedicalDirector Clinical — FIND OUT MORE

Communicare — FIND OUT MORE

CASE STUDIES:

Enhancing Preventative Care:

Insights from practice managers on how the integration has empowered their practitioners to have timely and informed conversations with patients about screening

Over **4,000** practices have integrated

22% increase in digitally submitted data from clinicians in the last 6 months

93% of cervical screening histories are now accessed digitally

94% decrease in faxed screening history requests

FUNCTIONS AND BENEFITS:

✓ **ACCESS PATIENT SCREENING INFORMATION AND ALERTS:** Stay informed with real-time updates on patient screening status, including overdue and follow-up alerts

✓ **VIEW AND SUBMIT SCREENING RESULTS:** Including colonoscopy, colposcopy findings or radiology reports, ensuring accurate program participation

✓ **FACILITATE BOWEL SCREENING TEST KIT COMPLETION:** Order test kits to be mailed directly to a patient's address or record when a kit has been issued during a consultation as part of the [alternative access to kits model](#). **Note:** bulk kit orders are made via the Healthcare Provider Portal

✓ **UPDATE PATIENT CONTACT AND DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS:** To ensure accurate screening records and support improved reporting to inform program policy and quality

✓ **VIEW PROGRAM-RELATED CORRESPONDENCE:** Stay updated with program communications to track your patient's screening journey

✓ **NOMINATE PROVIDERS AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES:** Assign a healthcare provider or personal representative to ensure comprehensive patient care

ABOUT THE
NATIONAL BOWEL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM

The National Bowel Cancer Screening Program aims to reduce deaths from bowel cancer by detecting early signs of the disease. If found early, more than 90% of cases can be successfully treated.

Eligible Australians aged 45 to 74 can do a free test at home every 2 years.

Health professionals play an important role in encouraging eligible patients to take part in bowel cancer screening, demystifying the process, and managing positive test results.

ALTERNATIVE ACCESS TO BOWEL SCREENING KITS FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

To increase bowel cancer screening rates, healthcare providers can now bulk order kits for their medical organisation to issue to eligible patients during an appointment.

Many patients are more likely to complete the test after discussing it with a trusted healthcare provider. You play an important role in helping your patients make informed decisions about bowel cancer screening.

🔗 **Find out more about the alternative access model**

🔗 **Health.gov.au/NBCSP**

AGE-ELIGIBLE COHORT:
› People aged 50-74 are sent a free screening test kit every 2 years
› People aged 45 to 49 can request their first free screening test kit be mailed to them and will be sent a kit every two years after they complete the test

PARTICIPATION:
40.9% of the 6.1 million people invited to screen between January 2020 and December 2021 participated in the NBCSP*

CANCER CASES AND INCIDENCE RATE:
In 2024, it is estimated that there will be 7,265 new cases of bowel cancer in the 50-74 age group (estimated incidence rate of 96 cases per 100,000 people).

* Source: National Bowel Cancer Screening Program monitoring report 2024

RESOURCES:

🔗 **Clinical Guidelines**

For the prevention, early detection and management of colorectal cancer

🔗 **The role of health professionals**

Learn how to encourage your patients to take part in bowel cancer screening

🔗 **Doing a bowel screening test**

Information for patients: eligibility, how to do the home test and understanding results

🔗 **Managing patients not suitable for the program**

Understand the options for people with bowel conditions or who have had bowel surgery

ABOUT THE
NATIONAL CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAM

The National Cervical Screening Program aims to prevent cervical cancer with routine HPV testing.

Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable cancers. Most cervical cancers occur in people who have never screened or haven't screened for a long time.

Healthcare providers play an important part in the program – by sharing your knowledge, you'll increase understanding of, and participation in, the program.

THE ROLE OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS IN ELIMINATING CERVICAL CANCER IN AUSTRALIA

Healthcare providers are crucial to reaching Australia's goal of eliminating cervical cancer by 2035. Promoting and encouraging HPV vaccinations and routine cervical screening ensures early detection, or in many cases prevents cervical cancer developing at all.

Educating patients about screening options, including self-collection, is essential for boosting participation, especially among those hesitant about traditional tests. By raising awareness of self-collection as an accessible alternative, providers can empower more patients to screen.

Leveraging NCSR integration, providers can easily track, remind, and follow up with patients to support improved outcomes.

🔗 **Find out more about the elimination strategy**

🔗 **Health.gov.au/NCSP**

AGE-ELIGIBLE COHORT:
Women and people with a cervix aged 25-74 years are invited to have a Cervical Screening Test (CST) through their healthcare provider every 5 years

PARTICIPATION:
4,708,848 participants aged 25–74 had a screening HPV test in 2018–2022 (68.4% of the target population)*

CANCER CASES AND INCIDENCE RATE:
869 new cases in the 25-74 age group were reported in 2019 (crude incidence rate of 11 cases per 100,000 population)*

* Source: National Cervical Screening Program monitoring report 2023

RESOURCES:

🔗 **Clinical Guidelines**

For the management of screen-detected abnormalities, screening in specific populations and investigation of abnormal vaginal bleeding

🔗 **Healthcare provider toolkit**

Resources and information to help healthcare providers engage patients and encourage participation in cervical screening

🔗 **Self-collection for the Cervical Screening Test**

Healthcare providers play a critical role in supporting patients with cervical screening, including self-collection

🔗 **The role of health professionals**

Find out how you can help increase patient awareness of the importance of regular cervical screening

ABOUT THE
NATIONAL LUNG CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM

NATIONAL LUNG CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM

The National Lung Cancer Screening Program aims to achieve better health outcomes for Australians by detecting lung cancer early and saving lives.

The program will use low-dose computed tomography (CT) scans to identify lung cancer at an earlier stage when treatment is more effective.

By detecting the cancer early, the lung cancer screening program aims to prevent hundreds of deaths each year from lung cancer.

THE ROLE OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS IN LUNG CANCER SCREENING

Healthcare providers play a crucial role in identifying and enrolling eligible participants, guiding them through the screening process, and ensuring follow-up care if needed.

Radiology providers perform low-dose computed tomography (low-dose CT) scans and provide reports to the NCSR that determine the next step in the screening journey.

When a scan indicates a potential cancer diagnosis, respiratory physicians are responsible for clinical assessment and notifying the NCSR whether lung cancer is present.

🔗 **Find out more about the program guidelines**

GETTING READY FOR THE NATIONAL LUNG CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM

🔗 **Health.gov.au/NLCSP**

ELIGIBLILITY REQUIREMENTS:
Australians aged 50 to 70 with no signs or symptoms of lung cancer and a history of at least 30 pack-years of cigarette smoking (currently smoking or quit within the last 10 years) are eligible to participate and can be enrolled by their healthcare provider.

CANCER CASES AND SCREENING:
In Australia, lung cancer is the fifth most common cancer and the leading cause of cancer death.

In 2023, nearly 15,000 people were diagnosed with lung cancer and there were 8,000 deaths. Up to 70% of lung cancers can be detected at early stages through screening.*

*Source: Lung Foundation Australia

RESOURCES:

🔗 **GP Resource Guide**

A comprehensive guide containing information on eligibility, the low-dose CT scan, benefits and harms, the NCSR, screening results and smoking cessation.

🔗 **Other healthcare provider resources**

Resources and information to help healthcare providers engage patients and encourage participation in lung cancer screening.

🔗 **NLCSP eLearning Modules**

Healthcare providers can complete seven CPD accredited self-paced modules about lung cancer screening.

🔗 **The role of health professionals**

Find out how you can help increase awareness of the importance of lung cancer screening for eligible patients.

BEST PRACTICE PREMIER
ENABLING THE NCSR INTEGRATION

Bp Premier

STEP 1: REGISTER YOUR PRACTICE

Before integrating Best Practice Premier with the NCSR, your medical practice must first be **registered in PRODA and the NCSR Healthcare Provider Portal**. This process takes around 15 minutes.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO HAVE READY:

✓ A registered individual **PRODA account** linked to your healthcare organisation, and you must be assigned the role of either:

- **Responsible Officer:** Typically has login access to your organisation's **Australian Business Register** account.

- **Approved Delegate:** Someone designated by the Responsible Officer to manage functions in PRODA on behalf of the organisation who must have the **NCSR CIS Terms and Conditions Attribute Delegations** assigned to their PRODA account.

✓ The Responsible Officer or Approved Delegate must be listed as an **Associate or Authorised Contact** in the **Australian Business Register**, with a matching PRODA account name.

✓ An active **Australian Business Number (ABN)**.

✓ Your **Healthcare Provider Identifier-Organisation (HPI-O)** number:

- Ensure it matches the HPI-O number recorded against your clinical software vendor.

REGISTRATION GUIDES:

📖 **Registration Walkthrough Video**

📄 **Registration Quick Start Guide**

📄 **NCSR Registration Detailed Guide**

REGISTRATION TECHNICAL SUPPORT

📅 **Book a callback from the NCSR**

📞 **Call the NCSR on 1800 627 701**

STEP 2: INSTALL THE FHIR API

Before setting up the NCSR integration, it's crucial that you **install the FHIR API** on your practice server.

If this step is not completed, <u>an error will occur</u> when attempting to access and submit NCSR forms:

🔥 **Guide for setting up FHIR connection**

STEP 3: ENABLE THE NCSR INTEGRATION

You will then need to **enable the integration at both a practice level and for the individual providers user accounts**. You can then download the NCSR Hub.

🧩 **Enable the integration in Best Practice**

BEST PRACTICE TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

⚙️ **Contact Bp support**

BEST PRACTICE PREMIER
GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE NCSR HUB

SUPPORTING YOUR PATIENTS

The NCSR Hub aims to provide you with greater visibility of your patient's screening status to help prompt important discussions about cancer screening.

It allows providers and practice staff to access screening information, including your patient's screening history and results, overdue and follow-up alerts, and submit demographic and clinical updates to the NCSR.

You can also facilitate bowel screening test completion by recording when you have issued a program test kit to a patient during a consultation, or if you have ordered a kit to be mailed to your patient's address.

CASE STUDY

Enhancing Preventative Care:

Insights from practice managers on integrating with the NCSR and how it has empowered their practitioners to have timely and informed conversations with patients about screening

SUBMITTING INFORMATION TO THE NCSR

Information about a person's demographics and screening history held within the NCSR is used to apply the correct screening pathway.

To help the NCSR provide a safety net for the programs, healthcare providers can update their patient's details and submit information via the NCSR Hub.

The NCSR Hub aims to make it easier to update your patient's record to make sure they receive appropriate care and avoid unnecessary follow-ups for high-risk results.

BOWEL FORMS

- **GP ASSESSMENT REPORT:** Provide information about a patient with a positive FOBT result
- **ADVERSE EVENTS REPORT:** For colonoscopists to report on an adverse outcome
- **COLONOSCOPY REPORT:** Report results for a patient with a positive FOBT result
- **HISTOPATHOLOGY REPORT:** Report results of specimens collected during colonoscopy

CERVICAL FORMS

- **ABNORMAL RESULTS QUESTIONNAIRE:** Report abnormal cervical results and colposcopy details
- **COLPOSCOPY & TREATMENT FORM:** Colposcopist reports to for patient follow-up
- **ADD TOTAL HYSTERECTOMY:** Applies total hysterectomy flag against a patient's record

LUNG FORMS

- **ELIGIBILITY & ENROLMENT:** Submit to start a patient on their screening journey
- **PARTICIPANT MANAGEMENT FORM:** Update your patient's program status
- **DIAGNOSIS FORM:** Confirms a clinical diagnosis and informs clinical pathways

Further information or feedback?

Submit a general enquiry, feedback, complaint or compliment via our webform

USER GUIDES

The following guides have been developed to support you using the NCSR Hub, including viewing previous screening results, submitting clinical forms and ordering bowel screening test kits:

NCSR Hub walkthrough video

Find out how to navigate the NCSR Hub in MedicalDirector and support patients in bowel and cervical screening:

Detailed guide for the NCSR Hub

Quick Reference Guide

MEDICALDIRECTOR CLINICAL
ENABLING THE NCSR INTEGRATION

MedicalDirector®

STEP 1: REGISTER YOUR PRACTICE

Before integrating MedicalDirector Clinical with the NCSR, your medical practice must first be **registered in PRODA and the NCSR Healthcare Provider Portal**. This process takes around 15 minutes.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO HAVE READY:

✓ A registered individual **PRODA account** linked to your healthcare organisation, and you must be assigned the role of either:

- **Responsible Officer:** Typically has login access to your organisation's **Australian Business Register** account.

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✓ The Responsible Officer or Approved Delegate must be listed as an **Associate or Authorised Contact** in the **Australian Business Register**, with a matching PRODA account name.

✓ An active **Australian Business Number (ABN)**.

✓ Your **Healthcare Provider Identifier-Organisation (HPI-O)** number:

- Ensure it matches the HPI-O number used for your medical practice's MedicalDirector account.

REGISTRATION GUIDES:

📖 Registration Walkthrough Video

📄 Registration Quick Start Guide

📑 NCSR Registration Detailed Guide

REGISTATION TECHNICAL SUPPORT

📅 Book a callback from the NCSR

📞 Call the NCSR on 1800 627 701

STEP 2: Install the NCSR widget in MedicalDirector

The widget is available with Clinical 4.0 and later. You'll need to access the sidebar and add the NCSR widget.

You will be prompted to grant access permissions for the widget. Ensure you allow access to All.

Once the widget is installed, it should appear in the sidebar and display NCSR information for eligible patients who are participating in the bowel, cervical or lung cancer screening program.

🧩 Install the NCSR widget in MedicalDirector

MEDICALDIRECTOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT

⚙️ Contact MedicalDirector support

MEDICALDIRECTOR CLINICAL
GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE NCSR HUB

SUPPORTING YOUR PATIENTS

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MEDICALDIRECTOR CASE STUDY

Enhancing Preventative Care:

Read about Bondi Doctor's experience with the integration and how it has empowered their practitioners to have timely and informed conversations with patients about screening

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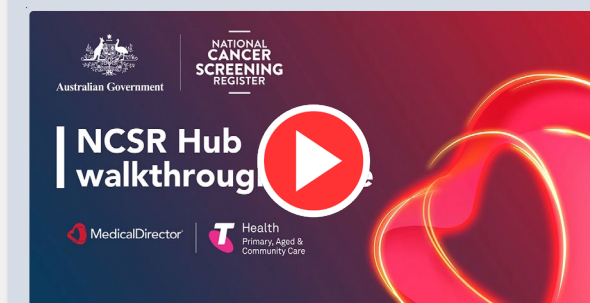Submit a general enquiry, feedback, complaint or compliment via our webform

USER GUIDES

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NCSR Hub walkthrough video

Find out how to navigate the NCSR Hub in MedicalDirector and support patients in bowel and cervical screening:

Detailed guide for the NCSR Hub

COMMUNICARE
ENABLING THE NCSR INTEGRATION

STEP 1: REGISTER YOUR MEDICAL ORGANISATION

Before integrating Communicare with the NCSR, your medical organisation must first be **registered in PRODA and the NCSR Healthcare Provider Portal**. This process takes around 15 minutes.
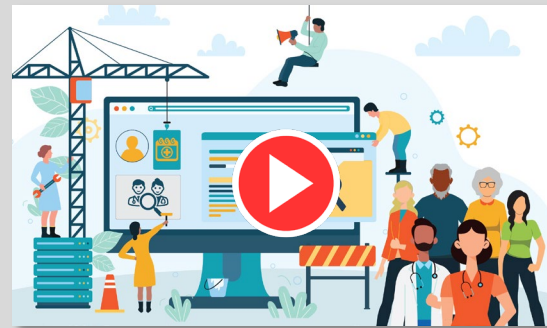
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REGISTRATION TECHNICAL SUPPORT

📅 **Book a callback from the NCSR**

📞 **Call the NCSR on 1800 627 701**

STEP 2: Enable the integration within Communicare

Follow the instructions provided by Communicare to enable the integration. You'll need to have your organisation's **NASH certificate** ready.

You'll also have the option to enable access for nurses and practice staff as delegates of a healthcare provider with a Medicare provider number and set system rights.

When Communicare is next started, for users who belong to a group that has the NCSR system rights enabled, alerts will display in the banner of a patient's clinical record if that patient is matched to the NCSR database.

Users can also link to the NCSR Hub from the patient record.

🧩 **Enable the integration in Communicare**

COMMUNICARE TECHNICAL SUPPORT

⚙ **Contact Communicare support**

COMMUNICARE
GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE NCSR HUB

Communicare

SUPPORTING YOUR PATIENTS

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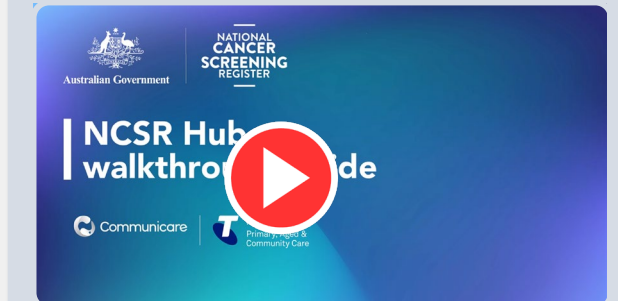
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NCSR Hub walkthrough video

Find out how to navigate the NCSR Hub in MedicalDirector and support patients in the 3 cancer screening programs:

Australian Government | NATIONAL CANCER SCREENING REGISTER

NCSR Hub walkthrough guide

Communicare T Primary Health & Community Care

Detailed guide for the NCSR Hub

Quick Reference Guide

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER PORTAL
HOW TO ACCESS AND SUPPORT MATERIALS

Australian Government | **NATIONAL CANCER SCREENING REGISTER**

AN ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION TO ACCESS AND SUBMIT YOUR PATIENT'S BOWEL, CERVICAL AND LUNG CANCER SCREENING INFORMATION:

If you don't have access to integrated clinical software, the Healthcare Provider Portal enables GPs, nurses, other specialists and support staff to securely access and submit patient screening data for the cancer screening programs at a time convenient to them.

Access is available to:
- Healthcare providers with a **Medicare provider number (MPN)**,
- Nurses and support staff **without a MPN acting as a delegate** of a healthcare provider with a MPN, or
- Nurses and healthcare workers using a **Register Identifier Number** – a unique number to authenticate cervical screening test providers not eligible for an MPN: NCSR.gov.au/rin-form

There are more than 25,000 registered active healthcare providers portal users*

NCSR.gov.au/HCP-Portal

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER PORTAL USERS CAN:

- **ACCESS PATIENT SCREENING INFORMATION & ALERTS:** Stay informed with real-time updates on patient screening status, including overdue and follow-up alerts

- **VIEW AND SUBMIT SCREENING RESULTS:** Including viewing cervical and lung screening histories, or colonoscopy and colposcopy findings, and LDCT reports (not including scan images) ensuring accurate program participation

- **FACILITATE BOWEL SCREENING TEST KIT COMPLETION:** Order test kits to be mailed directly to a patient's address or bulk order kits for your medical organisation and record when a you have issued one during a consultation as part of the alternative access to model

- **UPDATE PATIENT CONTACT & DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS:** To ensure accurate screening records and support improved reporting to inform program policy and quality

- **VIEW PROGRAM-RELATED CORRESPONDENCE:** Stay updated with program communications to track your patient's screening journey

- **NOMINATE PROVIDERS & PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES:** Assign a healthcare provider or personal representative to ensure comprehensive patient care

ALTERNATIVE ACCESS TO KITS

Healthcare providers can bulk order free bowel cancer screening test kits through the Healthcare Provider Portal and offer them to eligible patients during an appointment.

NCSR.gov.au/alternative-access

HOW TO ACCESS

The Portal is accessed via PRODA – an online identity verification and authentication system used to enable secure access for healthcare providers and their delegates to a range of government online services.

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER PORTAL GUIDES

Walkthrough Video

Detailed Guide

Quick Start Guide

* Figures reported June 2025