



National Cancer Screening Register

COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT

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WELCOME

A key element of organised cancer screening programs are registers that support the programs by inviting, reminding and facilitating the follow-up of participants for screening, as well as generating comprehensive data to inform policy and improve quality.

The National Cancer Screening Register (NCSR) has been established to fully support cervical, bowel and lung cancer screening pathways, from eligibility and participation through to diagnosis including management, quality assurance, follow up and reporting.

The NCSR is designed to link all key cancer screening stakeholders – health professionals, pathology laboratories, government bodies, local health authorities, and screening participants – creating a health ecosystem that enhances screening quality and outcomes.

We provide secure, online channels designed to streamline workflows via the Healthcare Provider Portal and integration with clinical and radiology software.

These tools are tailored to enable efficient access to patient screening histories and streamlined reporting of patient clinical information for the screening programs to help improve patient outcomes.

We are pleased to share this Communication Toolkit with our partners to help raise awareness of these channels and ensure consistent messaging.

Promoting adoption of these tools is essential for enhancing the screening experience and health outcomes for participants across Australia.

With the recent addition of the <u>National Lung</u> <u>Cancer Screening Program</u>, now is the time for general practitioners (GPs) and radiology providers to ensure they are equipped to support eligible patients by <u>integrating their clinical software</u> with the NCSR or registering access to the <u>Healthcare</u> Provider Portal.

This Toolkit includes links to useful resources, including key messages, our Primary Practice Onboarding Kit, user guides, and shareable content, including social media assets and animations.



We greatly appreciate your ongoing support in promoting awareness among our shared stakeholders. Thank you.

Prof. Dorota Gertig,NCSR Medical Director





OVERVIEW, PURPOSE AND TARGET AUDIENCE

This Communications Toolkit provides key messages, support materials and assets developed to support our partners in promoting the functions and benefits of the NCSR's digital channels:

- Clinical software and radiology software integration capabilities
- Healthcare Provider Portal
- Participant Portal

The purpose is to ensure consistent messages are communicated and to maximise reach to end-users through the help of promotion through our partners and stakeholders.

We encourage you to tailor key messages to suit your audiences.

Content within this toolkit is also available to download in a Word document:



Download key messages

DOCUMENT PURPOSE



Assist stakeholders in communicating about the NCSR with audiences



Increase end-user adoption and support ongoing engagement



Raise awareness of the functions and benefits of digital channels

TARGET AUDIENCE

CLINICAL SOFTWARE INTEGRATION USERS

- Primary healthcare providers and support staff using:
 - > Bp Premier
 - MedicalDirector Clinical
 - Communicare

RADIOLOGY SOFTWARE INTEGRATION USERS

 Radiologists and radiology support staff using NCSR-integrated RIS (Radiology Information System) or PACS (Picture Archiving and Communication) systems

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER PORTAL USERS

- Primary and specialist healthcare providers and support staff.
- Pathologists and laboratory staff that process bowel and cervical screening tests.
- Radiologists and support staff that submit radiology reports via the Portal

PARTICIPANT PORTAL USERS

 Australian's eligible for the National Cervical Screening Program, National Bowel Cancer Screening Program and National Lung Cancer Screening Program.

NATIONAL CANCER SCREENING REGISTER KEY MESSAGES





ABOUT THE NATIONAL CANCER SCREENING REGISTER (NCSR)

- The Australian Government established the NCSR, a worldfirst interoperable digital platform, to support the <u>National</u> <u>Cervical Screening Program</u>, <u>National Bowel Cancer</u> <u>Screening Program</u> and the <u>National Lung Cancer</u> <u>Screening Program</u>.
- These life-saving programs exist to reduce cancer-associated mortality through early detection and treatment and achieve the shared goal of preventing hundreds of deaths each year from lung cancer, eliminating cervical cancer as a public health issue by 2035 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:
 - enabling a digital record for each person participating in bowel, cervical and lung cancer screening
 - sending screening invitations and reminders, including bowel screening home test kits
 - following-up individuals with abnormal or high-risk screening results.
- The NCSR is designed to facilitate participant and healthcare provider engagement, streamline the screening process, and provide comprehensive data to inform policy development and support program quality.

THE NCSR SUPPORTS ALL OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE SCREENING PROGRAMS, GUIDED BY FOUR OBJECTIVES:

- 1 MAXIMISE PARTICIPATION:
 Integration with Medicare enables the NCSR to identify, invite and remind eligible people to screen, including individuals who are under or never screened.
- PACILITATE TIMELY DIAGNOSIS AND FOLLOW-UP:
 Nationally consistent clinical rules are automatically applied to support appropriate pathway management and follow-up of screen-detected abnormalities.
- 3 CREATE A CONNECTED AND IMPROVED DIGITAL HEALTH EXPERIENCE: Enable real-time, secure access to screening information for healthcare providers, patients, pathologists, and other relevant cancer screening stakeholders.
- 4 PROVIDE NATIONALLY CONSISTENT DATA AND REPORTING:
 Informs ongoing program evaluation and continuous improvement to ensure the effectiveness of the screening programs.

22%

increase in digitally submitted data from clinicians in the last 6 months 91%

of cervical screening histories are now accessed digitally 94%

decrease in faxed screening histories requests

DIGITAL CHANNELS FOR END-USERS:

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER PORTAL, CLINICAL & RADIOLOGY SOFTWARE INTEGRATION

- Enables healthcare providers to securely access and submit patient screening data at a time convenient to them and their staff
- 22,000 registered Healthcare Provider Portal users*
- 3,500 practices using Bp Premier, MedicalDirector and Communicare have integrated*

PARTICIPANT PORTAL

- Allows bowel, cervical and lung cancer screening participants to update personal details, manage their participation and view their screening status
- 92,000 registered users*

NCSR Communications Toolkit | July 2025 * Figures reported August 2024

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





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



Doing a bowel screening test

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



The role of health professionals

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



Managing patients not suitable for the program

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

CERVICAL SCREENING

PROGRAM

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





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



Self-collection for the Cervical Screening Test

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



Healthcare provider toolkit

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



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 will help 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 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, a respiratory physician is responsible for clinical assessment and completing the Diagnosis Form to notify the NCSR whether lung cancer is present.



Find out more about the program guidelines



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, almost 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: <u>Lung Foundation Australia</u>

RESOURCES:



GP Resource Guideline

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



Radiology sector resources

Resources and information to assist radiologists deliver the National Lung Cancer Screening Program.



Healthcare provider resources

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

CLINICAL SOFTWARE INTEGRATION KEY MESSAGES





ABOUT THE NATIONAL CANCER SCREENING REGISTER (NCSR) INTEGRATION

The NCSR offers a non-proprietary, standardised interface (REST FHIR API 2.0) that integrates seamlessly with primary care and specialist patient management software.

Integration with primary practice and specialist software is designed to streamline workflows for healthcare organisations supporting patients in cancer screening.

It allows users to access and report patient clinical information for the bowel, cervical and lung cancer screening programs directly from the software they use every day.

THE NCSR CURRENTLY INTEGRATES WITH:

- Primary care software:
 - > Bp Premier
 - MedicalDirector
 - > Communicare
- Specialist software:
 - > Gynaecology Plus
- Over 3,500 practices* have integrated: Enabling
 healthcare providers and practice staff real-time access to
 patient screening information, including alerts for patients
 who are overdue for screening or follow up.



WHY INTEGRATE YOUR CLINICAL SOFTWARE WITH THE NCSR?

Research shows that patients are more likely to participate in bowel, cervical and lung 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.

The integration allows healthcare providers to access comprehensive screening histories and submit clinical information for the 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.

INTEGRATED CLINICAL SOFTWARE 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 colonoscopy or colposcopy findings, 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 <u>alternative access to kits model</u> Note: bulk kit orders must be made via the Healthcare Provider Portal.
- 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.

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* Figures reported August 2024

CLINICAL SOFTWARE INTEGRATION USER GUIDES & RESOURCES





HOW TO INTEGRATE YOUR CLINICAL SOFTWARE

Before integrating Bp Premier, Medical Director or Communicare with the NCSR, your medical organisation must first be registered in PRODA and the NCSR Healthcare Provider Portal.

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 (ABR)** 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 and ensure it matches the one used for your clinical software.

NCSR REGISTRATION GUIDES AND RESOURCES



NCSR Registration Walkthrough Video



NCSR Registration Detailed Guide



NCSR Registration Quick Start Guide



Case Study: Practice Managers Insights

INTEGRATED SOFTWARE USER GUIDES



Bp Premier



MedicalDirector



Communicare

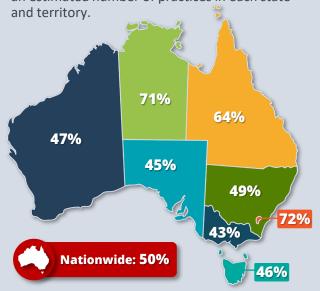


INTEGRATED PRACTICES

The numbers of integrated practices continues to rise across Australia as more clinicians are made aware of the benefits the NCSR Hub provides.

Across the country, approximately 48% of primary care practices have registered to integrate their software.

The percentage is calculated by looking at the number of practices that have registered versus an estimated number of practices in each state



RADIOLOGY SOFTWARE INTEGRATION KEY MESSAGES





ABOUT THE NATIONAL CANCER SCREENING REGISTER (NCSR) INTEGRATION

The NCSR offers integration using the HL7 v2.4 standard, specifically the AU (Australian) specification, which is tailored for Australian healthcare interoperability requirements. Radiology providers will connect via vendorfacing APIs using secure HTTPS protocols, ensuring encrypted communication.

The NCSR Radiology Implementation Guide (RIG) has been developed to inform accredited radiology providers of the process to connect and provide the prescribed low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) Radiology Report to the NCSR. It serves to provide the mechanics for radiology providers to integrate with the NCSR for the purposes of delivering the Radiology Report.

Radiology Information Systems (RIS) integration is designed to streamline workflows for radiologists and support staff, while also enhancing the participant experience by enabling more efficient, timely, and coordinated cancer screening services.

TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE RADIOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE OR DISCUSS NEXT STEPS:

NCSR REGISTRATION HELP SERVICE



WHY INTEGRATE YOUR RADIOLOGY INFORMATION SYSTEM WITH THE NCSR?

Integrating with the NCSR will allow radiologists and support staff to submit radiology reports for the NLCSP to the NCSR seamlessly and enable safe follow up of participants through their screening pathway. It allows users to access and report on lung cancer screening directly from the software they use every day.

Through secure authentication and authorisation protocols, integration ensures that only verified healthcare providers can access and perform specific actions within the system.

Using NASH (National Authentication Service for Health) certificates, providers can securely connect to the NCSR, protecting sensitive data such as medical results and participant information. This not only ensures compliance with national privacy and security standards but also supports timely and coordinated cancer screening—ultimately improving the patient experience and clinical outcomes.

Integrating your radiology software with the NCSR enhances operational efficiency while actively supporting a national initiative to lower lung cancer mortality.

INTEGRATED RIS USERS CAN:

- SUBMIT SCREENING RESULTS:
 Seamlessly submit Low Dose CT result reports to the NCSR via HL7 using the software used every day.
- EXCHANGE PATIENT AND PROVIDER INFORMATION
 WITH THE NCSR:
 RIS users can securely exchange participant and provider
 information with the NCSR, ensuring privacy and data
- information with the NCSR, ensuring privacy and data protection through authenticated and authorised system integration.
 BE REST ASSURED ON CLINICAL SAFETY:
- The data received will be used to ensure participants are on the correct clinical pathway and receive appropriate follow up.

Reporting Dataset

The requirements for what data must be reported to the NCSR has been developed by the Australian and New Zealand Society of Thoracic Radiology for the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) to facilitate interpretation and documentation of low-dose CT findings according to the NLCSP Nodule Management Protocol and NLCSP Additional Findings Guidelines.

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER PORTAL KEY MESSAGES





ABOUT THE HEALTHCARE PROVIDER PORTAL

- The Healthcare Provider Portal enables primary and specialist healthcare providers, nurses, radiologists, practice and laboratory staff to securely access and submit patient screening data for the bowel, cervical and lung cancer screening programs at a time convenient to them and their staff.
- 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: MCSR.gov.au/rin-form
- To access the portal, you will need a PRODA account. PRODA (or Provider Digital Access) is an online identity verification and authentication system used to enable secure access to government online services.
- There are more than 22,000 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 colonoscopy, colposcopy findings,
 biopsy findings or radiology reports, ensuring accurate program participation.
- FACILITATE BOWEL SCREENING TEST KIT COMPLETION:
 Directly to a patient's address or record when you have
 issued one to a patient during a consultation as part of
 the <u>alternative access to kits model</u>.(bulk orders are
 made through the Healthcare Provider Portal).
- UPDATE PATIENT CONTACT & DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS:
 To assist with maintaining up-to-date and accurate screening records and support improved reporting.
- 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.

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.



Register access

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER PORTAL GUIDES



Walkthrough Video



Detailed Guide



Quick Start Guide

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* Figures reported August 2024

PARTICIPANT PORTAL KEY MESSAGES





ABOUT THE PARTICIPANT PORTAL

- The Participant Portal has been introduced to make it easier for participants to take control of their screening health.
- It allows people who are participating in bowel, cervical and lung cancer screening to update personal details, manage their participation, update their communication preference, and view screening information.
- Over 92,000 Australians have accessed the Participant Portal via myGov.*

PARTICIPANT PORTAL USERS CAN:

- MANAGE PARTICIPATION & VIEW STATUS:
 Opt out, defer, or stop correspondence from screening programs.
- UPDATE CONTACT & DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS:
 Update your information and choose your preferred communication method.
- REQUEST BOWEL SCREENING TEST KITS:
 Order test kits to be mailed to your address.
- VIEW PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE:
 Access letters and notifications sent from the screening programs.
- NOMINATE HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS OR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES:
 Authorise a provider or representative to make requests to the NCSR on your behalf.

HOW TO ACCESS THE PARTICIPANT PORTAL

- The Participant Portal is accessed via your myGov account. Once you log into myGov, you will see an option to link to the National Cancer Screening Register.
- This is the same way you would link your myGov account with other government services like My Health Record, Australian Taxation Office or Medicare.
- You will need to have a myGov account and be an eligible participant in the bowel, cervical or lung cancer screening programs to gain access.

PARTICIPANT PORTAL GUIDES AND RESOURCES



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ASSETS SOCIAL MEDIA TILES





Social media assets suitable for Facebook, LinkedIn and X (formerly Twitter) are available to assist partners in promoting awareness of the functions and benefits of integrating clinical software with the NCSR.









ASSETS POWERPOINT TEMPLATES





The PowerPoint template contains slides that can be used by partners when presenting about the National Cancer Screening Register and the digital channels for end-users.

