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Date: 20 July 2006  
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Dear Colleague

### **NHS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT SCOTLAND DRAFT CLINICAL STANDARDS FOR BOWEL SCREENING**

You are invited to attend an open meeting being organised by NHS Quality Improvement Scotland (NHS QIS) to discuss the draft clinical standards for bowel screening.

The incidence of bowel cancer is high in Scotland; it is the third most common malignancy experienced by men and women and is second only to lung cancer as a cause of cancer death in the combined male and female population, with an estimated 3.8% of men and 2.6% of women in Scotland developing bowel cancer by the age of 74.

NHS QIS has developed draft clinical standards for bowel screening. The draft standards complement the Scottish Executive Health Department's initiative to help tackle bowel cancer, with the roll-out of a national bowel screening programme aimed at men and women aged between 50 and 74 years. The programme will commence in 2007 and will be phased in gradually over a 3 year period to all NHS health boards, aiming to reduce mortality from bowel cancer by 16% in the target populations.

The purpose of the open meeting, which is being held as part of a wider process of consultation, is to give members of the public and healthcare professionals from all parts of Scotland an opportunity to express their views, ensuring the draft clinical standards for bowel screening are well-defined, easy-to-use and understand, and ultimately, effective.

During an open meeting the draft clinical standards for bowel screening will be presented by members of the bowel screening project group. The audience will then divide into groups to discuss in detail each of the 7 areas for which draft clinical standards have been set. Feedback from the discussion groups will be used to develop the final version of the standards. Your contribution will therefore be critical to ensure we have set the right standards for the service.

The open meetings will take place as detailed overleaf: