

THE BOTTOM LINE

December 2007

A publication from the Queensland Bowel Cancer Screening Program (QBCSP)

Welcome to the end-of-year edition of 'The Bottom Line'. The purpose of this publication is to keep you up to date with progress in the implementation of the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) in Queensland.

Across Australia

The NBCSP has now been operational since August 2006. To date, over 650,000 invitations have been sent out nationally, which is two thirds of the total invitees. Over 250,000 people (close to 40%) have accepted the invitation to participate and of those, nearly 19,000 have returned a positive Faecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) result (7.5%).

Across the State

Implementation Data

At 30 November 2007, 113,405 FOBT invitations had been sent to eligible Queenslanders. This represents 57% of a total of approximately 200,000 eligible Queensland participants who will eventually receive an invitation during Phase One. Over 46,600 Queensland invitees returned their FOBT's, amounting to a crude participation rate of just over 41%. Of those participants who have completed the FOBT, 7.8% (3,650) have tested positive.

It is important to note however that the crude participation rate will generally underestimate the true proportion of the population who will participate in the Program. This is because at any point in time there will be members of the population who are eligible to proceed to the next point on the screening pathway but who have not yet had time to do so.

The total picture of how many colonoscopies have been completed as part of the Program for those participants recording a positive FOBT result, including those performed in private facilities, is unknown as there is significant under-reporting to the National Register. However, to date, over 440 colonoscopies have been completed as part of the Program at designated Queensland Health (public) facilities. Over 20 cancers have so far been detected.

Designated Queensland Health facilities

Following on from the previous edition of 'The Bottom Line', further facilities have now become designated Queensland Bowel Cancer Screening Program (QBCSP) facilities.

The facilities, contact details for the GE Nurse Coordinators and Health Promotion Officers are listed below.

Catchment	Designated facilities	GE Nurse Coordinator/s	Health Promotion Officer
Brisbane North	The Prince Charles Hospital	Gillian Schofield Ph: 07 3139 4106 Fax: 07 3139 4956	Michelle Hogan Ph: 07 3139 4116 Fax: 07 3139 4956
Brisbane South	Logan Hospital	Charlie Vaughan Ph: 07 3299 8077 Fax: 07 3299 8129	Caroline Hills Ph: 07 3240 2678 Fax: 07 3240 5111
	Princess Alexandra Hospital	Esther Drommel Ph: 07 3240 2678 Fax: 07 3240 5111	
Bundaberg	Mater Hospital Bundaberg Friendly Society Hospital Bundaberg Maryborough Base Hospital	Kim West Ph: 07 4122 8321 Fax: 07 4122 8325	Louise Wood Ph: 07 4122 8321 Fax: 07 4122 8325

Catchment	Designated facilities	GE Nurse Coordinator/s	Health Promotion Officer
Cairns	Cairns Base Hospital Thursday Island Hospital Innisfail Hospital Atherton Hospital	Debbie Whittaker Ph: 07 4050 9535 Fax: 07 4050 9539	Naomi Goldsworthy Ph: 07 4050 6385 Fax: 07 4050 9539
Gold Coast	Gold Coast Hospital – Southport Gold Cost Hospital – Robina	Jenny Harvey Ph: 07 5519 7644 Fax: 07 5519 8922	Nicole Brancato Ph: 07 5519 7644 Fax: 07 5519 8922
Mackay	Mackay Base Hospital Proserpine Hospital	Robyn Nikolsky Ph: 07 4968 6811 Fax: 07 4968 6850	Ronda Duncan Ph: 07 4968 6407 Fax: 07 4968 6850
Rockhampton	Rockhampton Base Hospital Mater Hospital Rockhampton	Fiona Petersen Ph: 07 4920 5747 Fax: 07 4920 5749	Debra Robson Ph: 07 4920 5748 Fax: 07 4920 5749
Sunshine Coast	Nambour Hospital Gympie Hospital Caloundra Hospital Cooloola Community Private Hospital	Lea Wiggins Ph: 07 5470 6213 Fax: 07 5470 5431	Rochelle Coombs Ph: 07 5470 6213 Fax: 07 5470 5431
Toowoomba	Toowoomba Base Hospital Warwick Health Service Dalby Health Service Roma Hospital	Sandra Lake Ph: 07 4616 6823 Fax: 07 4616 5696	Emma Dalglish Ph: 07 4616 6848 Fax: 07 4616 5696
Townsville	Townsville Hospital Ingham Hospital Ayr Hospital Charters Towers Hospital	Helen McManimm Ph: 07 4796 1238 Fax: 07 47962381	Sonja Main Ph: 07 4796 1238 Fax: 07 47962381
West Moreton	Ipswich Hospital	Kim Williamson Ph: 07 3810 1982 Fax: 07 3810 1778	Amy Orlandi Ph: 07 3810 1531 Fax: 07 3810 1778

Print Campaign

At this stage another print advertising campaign is planned for early 2008. This campaign will include print media again as per the similar campaign in June 2007 and will have statewide coverage including newspapers targeting those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The aim of the advertising will be to increase awareness of the bowel cancer screening program and prompt those eligible to participate in the Program.

Much of the QBCSP print media currently available has now been translated into several prevalent languages used in Queensland. These include Italian, Greek, Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Spanish and Vietnamese.

Australian Gastro Week (AGW)

The AGW 2007 held in Perth was attended by a number of the QBCSP team. AGW 2007 covered all aspects of gastroenterology and hepatology and there were some great sessions on endoscopy and colonoscopy in particular. The National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) presentation was provided by Dr Finlay Macrae (member of the Quality Working Group) on behalf of the Department of Health and Ageing.

There were some extremely interesting sessions on quality and training. This included a study on withdrawal times and polyp detection rates, which concurred with the recommendation that a withdrawal time of >6.8 minutes increases the chance of detecting polyps. The training session was extremely interesting with presentations about the use of simulators.

South Australia Bowel Cancer Screening Program (SABCSP)

The SABCSP recently invited Di Jones (Gastro-enterological Nursing College of Australia) and Charlie Vaughan (GE Nurse Coordinator, QBCSP Brisbane South) to participate in a training program for their Pathway Coordinators within the SABCSP. The training days incorporated information regarding the pilot program, the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program, Queensland Bowel Cancer Screening Program, GE Nurse Coordinator role, quality improvement and standards and education to support the pathway coordinators role regarding anatomy and physiology.

The SABCSP Pathway Coordinators were all very interested in the GE Nurse Coordinator role and how it enhanced the participants' pathway through the National Program. Charlie introduced the team to QBCSP documentation including the Health Screening Questionnaire, Consent process and the database format for collection of required data.

The SA program has been rolled out, and the Pathway Coordinators are based across three areas - Metropolitan South, Metropolitan North and the country. SABCSP does not have an authorised provider model, but follows the usual care pathway. Much discussion ensued regarding the impact on service providers, which was supported by the Nurse Unit Managers from various areas.

The Cancer Council SA also provided Psychosocial Training and Dr Graeme Suthers (Head of the Familial Cancer Unit at the Women's and Children's Hospital) gave an excellent talk on the genetics of bowel cancer.

Di and Charlie finished the two days by wishing the SA team the greatest of success in their new roles as Pathway Coordinators and offered their support and cooperation for the future. Their participation in the training for SABCSP is a great reflection of support for the Queensland model and in particular, the role of the GE Nurse Coordinator.

GP Letters

Every GP in Queensland will soon be receiving a letter from the Chief Health Officer, Queensland Health to inform and remind them of the QBCSP processes regarding public sector colonoscopies, the role of the GE Nurse Coordinator, Health Promotion Officer and contact details.

Preliminary Data

Below is preliminary data on colonoscopies undertaken in designated Queensland Health facilities for participants of the QBCSP. The data covers the period 7 August, 2006 – 30 September, 2007 and is based on 441 procedures undertaken during this period. It is important to note however, that this data relates only to public patients and does not provide the full picture of colonoscopy activity being undertaken in Queensland as a result of the National Program.

Of the participants who have had an assessment colonoscopy in a Queensland Health designated facility as part of the QBCSP during the period 7 August 2006 – 30 September 2007:

- 72.8% had a polypectomy;
- 54% had a histologically confirmed adenoma (pre-cancer);
- 4.5% had a histologically confirmed colorectal cancer.

This data is encouraging as it indicates that the positive predictive value of the FOBT screening test is high and that the Program is demonstrating its effectiveness in the prevention and early detection of bowel cancer.

This data is preliminary and in some catchments is based on small numbers due to the relatively recent commencement of colonoscopy services for the Program, small populations of eligible people in certain catchments and variable patterns of referral to public versus private sectors for these services. As such this data should be interpreted with some caution at this early stage.

Compliance with submission of colonoscopy reports to the National Program Register is low - across Australia only 20.9% of colonoscopy reports are submitted, with the exception of designated Queensland Health facilities where compliance with data requirements is mandatory as part of the authorised provider model.

Did you know . . .

You can contact your local GE Nurse Coordinator, QBCSP during business hours by phoning 1300 766 927 (free call!).

Feedback

We value the input of our key stakeholders. Should you have any feedback regarding the Program in Queensland, please contact: bowelcancerscreening@health.qld.gov.au.

Want to know more?

Visit our website at www.health.qld.gov.au/bowelcancer or phone the Queensland Bowel Cancer Screening Program on 1300 766 927.