



Invitation to the Svit Programme

Dear Sir or Madam,

We kindly invite you to join the Svit Programme - the national screening and early detection programme for colorectal cancer. The programme has been implemented under the patronage of Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia since 2009. It is operated by the National Institute of Public Health and aimed to detect precancerous growths and early stages of colorectal cancer in men and women aged 50 to 74 years, even if they feel well and have no health problems. Inclusion in the Svit Programme enables you to have your stool samples tested for faecal occult blood every two years. If blood is found in your stool, you will be referred to the colonoscopy, which will explain the cause of bleeding. This means that regular stool tests can help you to prevent or detect this type of cancer early enough when the treatment can still be very successful. Over the past years, the Svit Programme has proven to be effective and it has improved the health and saved lives of many people. It is important that a majority of cases have been found early enough when oncologic treatment was not yet necessary. By detecting and removing precancerous growths in time, we have prevented the disease from developing in many people. The participation in Svit Programme will not represent any additional costs for you, because it is covered by your mandatory health insurance.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SVIT PROGRAMME

You can join the Svit Programme by **filling in and signing both sides** of the enclosed **Statement of Voluntary Participation in the Svit Programme**. Please send it to us in the shortest time possible. The postage-paid envelope is enclosed.

You will receive the invitation every two years until you have turned 74 years of age. To take part in the Svit Programme, you need to **fill in, sign and send** us the Statement of Voluntary Participation in the Svit Programme **each time** you are invited because we need your information and consent every time we send you the invitation.

If you meet the criteria for the participation in the screening programme, we will send you a test kit for two stool samples with detailed instructions within a week after receiving your signed Statement of Voluntary Participation in the Svit Programme. You collect the stool samples at home, and post them to the Center Svit. We will analyse both stool samples for faecal occult blood at the Svit Programme laboratory and inform you about the test results within one week.

You can read more about the Svit Programme in the enclosed brochure. If you need any additional information, you can:

- Call the Svit Programme Call Centre every day between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM on 01 620 45 21;
- Send a letter to Program Svit, p. p. 241, 1001 Ljubljana, or an e-mail to svit@nijz.si or a fax to 01 620 45 29;
- Visit the Svit Programme website at www.program-svit.si;
- Visit the Svit contact point in the prevention centre of your community health centre, or
- Visit your general practitioner.

Take the opportunity for a preventive check-up and join the Svit Programme. It has helped many people to improve their health and save their lives – you can be one of them.

We care about your health.
Yours faithfully,

Jožica Maučec Zakotnik, M.D., specialist
Head of the Svit Programme & co-workers