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## Executive summary

Health Council of the Netherlands. Population Screening Act: bowel cancer screening by pill camera. The Hague: Health Council of the Netherlands, 2013; publication no. 2013/31.

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This recommendation to the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport pertains to a license application for a pilot population screening study for bowel cancer using capsule endoscopy for screening. This method is used to make images of the intestinal mucosa during passage through the intestines, which could allow early detection of bowel cancer and possible precursors thereof.

During evaluation of the license application, the Population Screening Committee noted there is no or limited experience with this study method as a form of screening. The Committee considers the scientific substantiation to be insufficient for the expectation that fifty percent participation is feasible, and for use of the capsule in a pilot population screening programme at this stage of development. This method requires rigorous bowel preparation, more extensive than for colonoscopy, and a long reading time of the capsule video, and is associated with a large number of false-positive outcomes.

The Committee concludes that the proposed study does not meet the legal requirement for 'scientific soundness'. It recommends that the minister not issue the requested license.