Population screening timeline

Abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) screening
Offered to men during the year they turn 65. Older men can self-refer.
www.nhs.uk/aaa

Age 70
Age 65
Age 60
Age 55
Age 50
Age 45
Age 40
Age 35
Age 30
Age 25
Age 20
Age 15
Age 12
Age 5
Newborn

Bowel cancer screening
Offered to men and women aged 60 to 74 every 2 years. Those aged 75 or over can request screening by calling 0800 7076060.

In some areas of the country people aged 55 also invited for a one-off bowel scope screening test. You can check by calling the number above.
www.nhs.uk/bowel

Breast screening
Offered routinely to women aged from 50 up to their 71st birthday. Older women can self-refer.
www.nhs.uk/breast

Diabetic eye screening
Offered annually to people with diabetes aged 12 and over.
www.nhs.uk/diabeticeye

Cervical screening
Offered to women aged from 25 to 49 every 3 years, and women aged from 50 to 64 every 5 years.
www.nhs.uk/cervical

Newborn screening
- newborn hearing
- physical examination (for problems with eyes, hearts, hips and testes) within 3 days of birth and again at 6 to 8 weeks of age
- newborn blood spot (for 9 rare conditions)
www.nhs.uk/pregnancyscreening

Screening in pregnancy
- sickle cell and thalassaemia (ideally by 10 weeks)
- infectious diseases (HIV, hepatitis B and syphilis)
- Down’s syndrome, Edwards’ syndrome and Patau’s syndrome
- 11 physical conditions in the baby (20-week scan)
- diabetic retinopathy (for women with diabetes)
www.nhs.uk/pregnancyscreening
Screening is the process of identifying healthy people who may have an increased chance of a disease or condition. It can be helpful to think of screening like a sieve.

The sieve represents the screening test and most people pass through it. This means they have a low chance of having the condition screened for.

The people left in the sieve have a higher chance of having the condition. The screening provider can then offer them information, further tests or treatment as appropriate.

Personal choice

All screening is a balance of potential benefits and potential harms.

Deciding whether or not to have a screening test is a personal choice and one which only you can make. You have the right to accept or decline screening.

At each stage of the screening process, you can make your own choices about any further tests, treatment, advice and support.

Find more information, including these resources, at www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-population-screening-explained