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](http://www.nhs.uk/aaa)

**Bowel cancer screening**
Offered to people aged 60 to 74 every 2 years. From 2021 to 2026, screening will gradually be offered to people in their 50s as well. Those aged 75 or over can request screening by calling 0800 7076060.
[www.nhs.uk/bowel](http://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](http://www.nhs.uk/breast)

**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](http://www.nhs.uk/cervical)

**Diabetic eye screening**
Offered annually to people with diabetes aged 12 and over.
[www.nhs.uk/diabeticeye](http://www.nhs.uk/diabeticeye)

**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](http://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](http://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.

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