



UK National  
Screening Committee



## Screening Programmes

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

# Cross-border operational protocol NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme and Wales Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme

Version 1.0 / September 2013

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# About the NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme

The NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme (NAAASP) aims to reduce aneurysm-related mortality through early detection, appropriate monitoring and treatment. NAAASP invites men for ultrasound screening during the year they turn 65 while men over 65 who have not previously been screened can self-refer.

The UK National Screening Committee and NHS Screening Programmes are part of Public Health England (PHE), an executive agency of the Department of Health. PHE was established on 1 April 2013 to bring together public health specialists from more than 70 organisations into a single public health service.

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Name / Group	Responsibility

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### **Review / approval**

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## Executive summary

This document provides guidance on how NAAASP's 41 local programmes in England should interact with the Wales Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme (WAAASP) regarding the exchange of screening information.

This guidance is likely to be used most often by those local programmes in England that share a border with Wales. However, it is applicable to all English programmes irrespective of geographical boundaries.

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## Background

The safety and wellbeing of patients is paramount. The overriding principle is that no treatment should be refused or delayed due to uncertainty or ambiguity as to which body is responsible for funding an individual's healthcare provision.

This protocol sets out arrangements between NAAASP and WAAASP to help ensure smooth and efficient interaction between the NHS on either side of the England/Wales border to support better patient outcomes and avoid fragmentation of care. This protocol remains in place until March 2016.

## Cross-border differences

The operational procedures for the AAA screening pathway differ slightly between the programmes in England and Wales. You can access the protocols for each country via the following links.

- <http://aaa/screening.nhs.uk>
- <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/868/page/51379>

The two countries meet three times a year as part of the AAA screening Four Nations Group. Potential changes to protocols are discussed by this group.

## Responsibility

WAAASP is responsible for men who are resident in Wales, irrespective of where their GP is based.

NAAASP is responsible for men registered with an English GP and will offer screening to men registered with a GP in Wales but who are resident in England

Local health boards (LHBs) are responsible for securing services for their residents. However, it is sometimes more convenient for residents to register with GPs across the Wales/England border. The Department of Health and the Welsh Government have agreed an interim joint protocol for both Welsh residents who are registered with English GPs and English residents who are registered with Welsh GPs.

The protocol can be accessed at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/health/publications/health/guidance/protocol/?lang=en>

## Funding

WAAASP is funded and managed centrally. However, the funding streams are shared by three parties: Public Health Wales, Welsh Government and seven health boards (HBs). NAAASP is funded by NHS England via area team commissioning.

## Data exchange

The English and Welsh programmes need to exchange data on men transferring between programmes. A pro forma is being developed that will provide information across all borders in the UK for this purpose. All staff who transfer confidential data regarding individuals must follow data protection and information governance regulations.

A memorandum of understanding should be signed by both the NAAASP and WAAASP sites which permits the appropriate exchange of data and information between the programmes, thus negating the need for each site to seek individual Caldicott Guardian approval.

Contact details for local AAA screening programmes in England can be found at:

<http://aaa.screening.nhs.uk/whereyoulive>

Contact details for the Wales AAA Screening Programme sites can be found at:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/51379>

Men resident in England but registered with a Welsh GP will be added to the English cohort. These men will then be allocated to the relevant local AAA screening programme in England and should be screened as any other subject within the cohort.

Details should be transferred as normal for any men who should be moved to another local AAA screening programme in England due to a change in residency or registered GP.

For men who should move to the Wales programme due to a change in residency, their details should be transferred using the pro forma once available.

Men resident in Wales will be screened according to WAAASP protocols irrespective of their GP. Should these men change their residency so that they are no longer the legal responsibility of a Welsh LHB, their details will be transferred using the developed pro forma.

## Recording screening activity and outcomes

NAAASP records screening activity and outcome data on its national Screening Management and Referrals Tracking IT system. Screening activity and outcomes for men who are resident in England but registered in Wales will be exactly the same as for those who are both registered and resident in England.

## Referral from screening

Referrals from screening for treatment will be exactly the same for men who are resident in England but registered in Wales as those who are both registered and resident in England.

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