

NHS abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) screening programme: clinical training and assessment logbook for trainee screening technicians

Trainee screening technician name	
Trainee screening technician signature	
Clinical skills trainer (CST) name	
Clinical skills trainer (CST) signature	
Local AAA screening service manager/coordinator name	
Local AAA screening service manager/coordinator signature	
Local AAA screening service name	

Screening technician to enter name

This logbook provides trainee screening technicians with a framework for the minimum clinical requirements during training to become a screening technician in the NHS AAA screening programme.

Trainees and local services are expected to use this logbook to record training scans and evidence clinical assessments. These are the minimum clinical requirements. Local services may identify additional requirements tailored to the needs of individual trainees.

Trainee screening technicians are expected be [registered with an approved centre and working towards the level 3 health screener diploma \(HSD\)](#).

A trainee can carry out scanning in a semi-independent capacity without direct supervision by the CST, while working towards gaining the HSD. To carry out screening in a semi-independent capacity, the trainee must have successfully completed all the minimum requirements set out in this logbook.

Only a clinical skills trainer (CST) who meets [the prerequisites for a CST and has completed the training set out in the CST handbook](#) can supervise the trainee's scans and undertake the clinical assessments specified in this log book.

All the scans and assessments should be performed using the portable ultrasound machines used by local service providers.

Reference IDs used to log the scans must not be person-identifiable.

The following are the steps towards semi-independent practice:

1. Stage 1 scans
2. Stage 1 clinical assessment
3. Stage 2 scans
4. Stage 2 clinical assessments
5. Completion of minimum of 300 hours of supervised learning and workplace-based experience
6. External clinical assessment
7. Semi-independent scanning confirmation

Trainee screening technicians must continue to work towards gaining the HSD after they have gained semi-independent scanning confirmation.

The semi-independent scanning confirmation is valid for up to 24 months from the date it is issued.

Screening technician to enter name

Scanning competence levels

These are the competence levels the CST and trainee screening technician must use for training and assessment.

Scanning competence level	Descriptor
Level 1	The trainee screening technician observed the scan
Level 2	The trainee screening technician participated in some aspects of the scan
Level 3	The trainee screening technician applied their knowledge and skill to scan the abdominal aorta under close supervision and/or direction
Level 4	The trainee screening technician applied their knowledge and skill to scan the non-aneurysmal abdominal aorta unaided
Level 5	The trainee screening technician adapted their knowledge and skill to scan the aneurysmal abdominal aorta unaided

Trainee screening technicians are not required to log level 1 scans but may wish to log the training hours as part of the 300 hours of supervised learning and workplace based experience.

Screening technician to enter name

1. Stage 1 scans

A minimum of 25 assisted scans at competence levels 2-3 are required.

At least 15 must be abdominal aortas without an aneurysm and at least 10 must be abdominal aortas with an aneurysm.

The CST must always be present to demonstrate and observe the scanning technique and assist.

2. Stage 1 clinical assessment

This assessment is carried out by the local service's own CST.

The template for carrying out this assessment aligns with the HSD. This enables the trainee to gather the evidence required for the HSD.

The trainee must demonstrate level 3 scanning competence

2.1 Structure of stage 1 clinical assessment

The assessment should be planned well in advance with enough time set aside for the assessment and feedback to the trainee screening technician.

The equipment used for the assessment must be the portable ultrasound scanner used within the local service.

A suitable clinic list must be arranged to enable the trainee to scan individuals with and without an abdominal aortic aneurysm.

The CST must observe the trainee scanning a minimum of 5 individuals.

At least 2 of the individuals scanned must have an abdominal aortic aneurysm.

During the assessment, the CST may ask questions to check the trainee understands the ultrasound physics principles, machine controls, image optimisation and scanning technique as outlined in the unit guidance for the HSD.

The CST should not ask any questions regarding any other pathology or physical principles not outlined within the indicative content for the qualification.

If the trainee cannot demonstrate level 3 scanning competence at the stage 1 clinical assessment, local services should allow them a sufficient period of training and support before being reassessed.

3. Stage 2 scans

A minimum of 75 unassisted scans at competence levels 4 and 5 are required.

Screening technician to enter name

At least 50 must be abdominal aortas without an aneurysm and at least 25 must be abdominal aortas with an aneurysm.

The CST must be present throughout, but the trainee screening technician performs the scan and manipulates the machine controls.

The CST must check the scan following completion by the trainee screening technician. If the measurement of the abdominal aorta is incorrect or the CST assisted the trainee to carry out the scan, then this must not be recorded as a stage 2 scan.

If feedback on improvement in scanning technique and / or image optimisation is given, these scans can be recorded as stage 2 scans.

4. Stage 2 clinical assessment

This assessment is carried out by the local service's own CST.

The template for carrying out this assessment aligns with the HSD. This allows the trainee to gather the evidence required for the HSD.

The trainee must demonstrate levels 4 and 5 scanning competence.

4.1 Structure of stage 2 clinical assessment

It should only be carried out after the trainee screening technician has completed stage 1 scans, stage 1 clinical assessment and stage 2 scans.

The assessment should be planned well in advance with sufficient time set aside for the assessment and feedback to the trainee screening technician.

The equipment used for the assessment must be the portable ultrasound scanner used within the local service.

A suitable clinic list must be arranged to allow the trainee to scan individuals who have abdominal aortas with and without an aneurysm.

The CST must observe the trainee screening technician scanning a minimum of 5 individuals. At least 2 of the individuals scanned must have an abdominal aortic aneurysm.

During the assessment, the CST may ask questions to check that the trainee understands the ultrasound physics principles, machine controls, image optimisation and scanning technique as outlined in the unit guidance for the HSD.

The CST should not ask any questions regarding any other pathology or physical principles not outlined within the indicative content for the qualification.

Screening technician to enter name

If the trainee cannot demonstrate levels 4 and 5 scanning competence at the stage 2 clinical assessment, local services should allow the trainee a sufficient period of training and support before being reassessed.

5. 300 hours of supervised learning and workplace-based experience

Trainee screening technicians need to evidence a minimum of 300 hours of supervised learning and workplace-based experience. The counted hours must be from when the trainee commences in their role.

This can include but is not limited to:

- induction into the screening programme
- shadowing health professionals, for example infection prevention and control nurse and vascular nurse specialist
- clinical skills development with the CST
- observation clinics with a qualified and experienced screening technician
- observing aneurysm repair in theatre
- undertaking the learning content for the HSD
- non-screening related clinical experience, for example participation in Covid-19 vaccination clinics ☐

☐ Non-screening related experience is limited to a maximum of 15 hours.

6. External clinical assessment

This assessment is carried out by the local service's CST and a CST from another local service (an external CST).

Local services need to liaise with neighbouring providers for availability of an external CST and schedule the external clinical assessment accordingly. All associated travel expenses should be covered locally.

The individuals scanned at the external clinical assessment do not necessarily have to be from the local service and the venue for the assessment can be a screening venue or another clinical environment where that trainee is comfortable scanning, for example a vascular laboratory or radiology department.

The role of the external CST is to carry out an independent assessment of the trainee screening technician's competence in performing an abdominal aortic aneurysm screen as outlined in the [NHS AAA screening programme's clinical guidance and scope of practice for professionals document](#).

The trainee screening technician is required to demonstrate scanning competence at level 5 at this assessment.

Screening technician to enter name

6.1 Structure of the external clinical assessment

It should only be carried out after the trainee has completed stage 1 scans and clinical assessment, stage 2 scans and clinical assessment, and a minimum of 300 hours of supervised learning and workplace-based experience.

The external clinical assessment should be planned well in advance with sufficient time set aside for the assessments and feedback to the trainee.

The equipment used for the assessment must be the portable ultrasound scanner used within the local service.

A suitable clinic list must be arranged to allow the trainee to scan individuals with and without abdominal aortic aneurysm. This list must not include an individual previously scanned by the trainee.

The local service's CST and the external CST must observe the trainee scanning a minimum of 5 individuals.

At least 2 of the individuals scanned must have an abdominal aortic aneurysm.

The template for carrying out this assessment aligns with the HSD. This allows the trainee to gather the evidence required for the HSD.

During the assessment, the CSTs may ask questions to check that the trainee screening technician understands the physics principles, machine controls, image optimisation and scanning technique as outlined in the unit guidance for HSD.

The CSTs should not ask any questions regarding any other pathology or physical principles not outlined within the indicative content for the qualification.

6.2 Determining the scanning competence level achieved

If the local service's CST and the external CST do not agree on the competence level achieved, the external CST's decision will determine the outcome of the assessment and the trainee's scanning competence level.

If the trainee cannot demonstrate scanning competence level 5, local services should allow the trainee a sufficient period of training and support before being reassessed.

7. Confirmation of semi-independent scanning

To be able to scan without direct supervision of the CST, the trainee screening technician must have completed the following:

Screening technician to enter name

- a minimum of 25 stage one and 75 stage two supervised scans
- stage one clinical assessment at scanning competence levels 3
- stage two clinical assessment at scanning competence levels 4 and 5
- external clinical assessment at competence level 5
- minimum of 300 hours of supervised learning and workplace-based experience

In addition, the local service manager / coordinator, CST and clinical lead must confirm that:

- the trainee screening technician has direct access to the CST in the event that they need support – this can be face to face, by telephone or email
- the trainee screening technician continues to work towards the HSD
- the local screening service accepts responsibility for any scans performed by the trainee before completing the HSD
- the first 100 scans following successful completion of the external clinical assessment are reviewed by the CST/QA lead within one working week of the images being taken
- the trainee has regular face to face feedback sessions with their CST at least once every 4 weeks

Screening technician to enter name

Stage 1 scans log

A minimum of 15 without AAA and 10 with AAA at scanning competence levels 2-3 are required

	Date	Scan ID	Comments	CST signature
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				

Screening technician to enter name
Stage 1 scan logs (continued)

	Date	Scan ID	Comments	CST signature
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				

Screening technician to enter name

Stage 2 scans log

1. A minimum of 50 without AAA at scanning competence level 4 are required
2. A minimum of 25 with AAA at scanning competence level 5 are required

Stage 2 scans without AAA

	Date	Scan ID	Comments	CST signature
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				

Screening technician to enter name

Stage two scans log

A minimum of 50 without AAA at level 4 scanning competence

	Date	Scan ID	Comments	CST signature
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Screening technician to enter name

Stage 2 scans log continued

	Date	Scan ID	Comments	CST signature
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				
26				
27				
28				
29				
30				
31				

Screening technician to enter name

Stage 2 scans log continued

	Date	Scan ID	Comments	CST signature
32				
33				
34				
35				
36				
37				
38				
39				
40				
41				
42				

Screening technician to enter name

Stage 2 scans log continued

	Date	Scan ID	Comments	CST signature
43				
44				
45				
46				
47				
48				
49				
50				
51				
52				
53				

Screening technician to enter name

Stage 2 scans with AAA

A minimum of 25 with AAA at scanning competence level 5

	Date	Scan ID	Comments	CST signature
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				

Screening technician to enter name

Stage 2 scans with AAA continued

	Date	Scan ID	Comments	CST signature
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				

Screening technician to enter name

Stage 1 clinical assessment

Health screener diploma (HSD) unit 10 – Undertake Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

Holistic assessment: This checklist provides opportunities for the CST assessor to capture holistic competence over both the specialist and mandatory units of the HSD. Each assessment criterion is mapped to other assessment criteria of the HSD as appropriate.

Trainee screening technician name

Date of observation

Scan IDs of individuals scanned -minimum of 5, must not be person-identifiable

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
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Assessment criteria <i>Please cover both, questions in bold and bullet points</i>	Performance comments – how the trainee screening technician met the assessment criteria <i>This should include a written document of specific examples of the learner's practice</i>
10.2.1 Demonstrate how to prepare and use the ultrasound equipment and worklist for an AAA screening episode, following national guidance • 1.4.2 Access full and up-to-date details of agreed ways of working • 1.4.3 Implement agreed ways of working	
10.2.3 Demonstrate how to check and confirm that ultrasound equipment is functioning correctly prior to each screening session, following national protocol	

Screening technician to enter name

10.2.2 Demonstrate ensuring environmental conditions are optimal for an AAA screening episode, including infection control and safety checks • 4.4.2 Demonstrate safe moving and handling techniques for equipment in a healthcare setting	
10.3.1 Demonstrate welcoming the individual to the screening session, introducing self and confirming the individual's identity • 2.2.1 Demonstrate how to establish the communication, language, needs and preferences of individuals using a range of communication methods and styles • 2.5.2 Demonstrate how to interact with individuals in a way that respects their belief, culture, values and preferences • 4.6.2 Demonstrate use of measures to protect own security and the security of others in the work setting	
10.3.3 Demonstrate explaining the screen to an individual/carer and checking their understanding using open questions <u>AND</u> 10.3.4 Demonstrate facilitating personal informed choice and gaining consent for the screening episode <u>AND</u> 10.3.5 Demonstrate gaining consent for the use of the individual's personal and screening episode data	

Screening technician to enter name

• 2.6.1 Demonstrate actions that model inclusive practice • 2.6.2 Demonstrate actions that promote diversity • 2.6.3 Demonstrate actions that promote equality	
10.3.2 Demonstrate correct positioning of the individual <u>AND</u> 10.4.1 Demonstrate checking that the individual is correctly positioned on the couch • 2.5.4 Demonstrate how you adapt a working practice to meet EDI requirements • 2.6.1 Demonstrate actions that model inclusive practice • 4.2.3 Demonstrate the use of risk assessment in relation to health and safety in a healthcare setting • 5.6.2 Demonstrate correct donning, doffing and disposal of PPE	
10.4.2 Demonstrate matching identity against National IT software and scanning equipment • 7.1.2 Demonstrate ways to maintain confidentiality in day-to-day communication in a screening setting • 7.3.2 Demonstrate practices that ensure security when storing and accessing information in a screening setting	

Screening technician to enter name

10.1.2 Use the correct scanning position to minimise the risk of work-related upper limb and musculoskeletal disorders • 4.2.3 Demonstrate the use of risk assessment in relation to health and safety in a healthcare setting	
10.4.3 Demonstrate applying the transducer to the abdomen and manoeuvring it to obtain images in both transverse and longitudinal planes • 5.2.3 Demonstrate adherence to organisational IPC procedures relevant to own role • 5.7.2 Demonstrate correct hand hygiene technique	
10.4.4 Demonstrate manipulation of depth, gain, focus and dynamic range to optimise the image whilst scanning the abdominal aorta	
10.4.5 Demonstrate how to interpret an ultrasound image to correctly identify the abdominal aorta using appropriate anatomical landmarks	
10.4.6 Demonstrate imaging the abdominal aorta from the proximal segment to level of the bifurcation in Longitudinal and Transverse planes	
10.4.7 Demonstrate positioning the electronic callipers and measuring maximum aortic diameter from the inner anterior wall to the inner posterior wall as per national protocols	

Screening technician to enter name

10.4.8 Demonstrate capture of an ultrasound image at the widest point as per national guidance	
10.4.10 Demonstrate how to interpret an ultrasound image to correctly identify an abdominal aortic aneurysm	
10.5.1 Demonstrate how to accurately save, record and store results of the AAA screening event using the National IT software and local protocols, ensuring data integrity and confidentiality • 7.3.2 Demonstrate practices that ensure security when storing and accessing information in a screening setting • 7.3.3 Demonstrate how to maintain records that are up to date, complete, accurate and legible in accordance with workplace policies	
10.6.1 Demonstrate how to follow agreed protocols to determine the appropriate pathway for an individual following an AAA screening event <u>AND</u> 10.6.2 Demonstrate effective communication of screening results and next steps to the individual, ensuring understanding and support	

Screening technician to enter name

Stage 1 clinical assessment

The screening technician has achieved scanning competence level

Feedback to trainee screening technician and agreed actions

(Please remember to comment on good/outstanding performance as well as areas for ongoing development)

CST name

CST signature

Trainee screening technician signature

Screening technician to enter name

Stage 2 clinical assessment

Health screener diploma (HSD) unit 10 – Undertake Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm screening

Holistic assessment: This checklist provides opportunities for the CST assessor to capture holistic competence over both the specialist and mandatory units of the HSD. Each assessment criterion is mapped to other assessment criteria of the HSD as appropriate.

Trainee screening technician name

Date of observation

Scan IDs of individuals scanned - minimum of 5, must not be person-identifiable

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
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Assessment criteria <i>Please cover both, questions in bold and bullet points</i>	Performance comments – how the trainee screening technician met the assessment criteria <i>This should include a written document of specific examples of the learner's practice</i>
10.2.1 Demonstrate how to prepare and use the ultrasound equipment and worklist for an AAA screening episode, following national guidance • 1.4.2 Access full and up-to-date details of agreed ways of working • 1.4.3 Implement agreed ways of working	
10.2.3 Demonstrate how to check and confirm that ultrasound equipment is functioning correctly prior to each screening session, following national protocol	

Screening technician to enter name

10.2.2 Demonstrate ensuring environmental conditions are optimal for an AAA screening episode, including infection control and safety checks • 4.4.2 Demonstrate safe moving and handling techniques for equipment in a healthcare setting	
10.3.1 Demonstrate welcoming the individual to the screening session, introducing self and confirming the individual's identity • 2.2.1 Demonstrate how to establish the communication, language, needs and preferences of individuals using a range of communication methods and styles • 2.5.2 Demonstrate how to interact with individuals in a way that respects their belief, culture, values and preferences • 4.6.2 Demonstrate use of measures to protect own security and the security of others in the work setting	
10.3.3 Demonstrate explaining the screen to an individual/carer and checking their understanding using open questions <u>AND</u> 10.3.4 Demonstrate facilitating personal informed choice and gaining consent for the screening episode <u>AND</u>	

Screening technician to enter name

10.3.5 Demonstrate gaining consent for the use of the individual's personal and screening episode data • 2.6.1 Demonstrate actions that model inclusive practice • 2.6.2 Demonstrate actions that promote diversity • 2.6.3 Demonstrate actions that promote equality	
10.3.2 Demonstrate correct positioning of the individual <u>AND</u> 10.4.1 Demonstrate checking that the individual is correctly positioned on the couch • 2.5.4 Demonstrate how you adapt a working practice to meet EDI requirements • 2.6.1 Demonstrate actions that model inclusive practice • 4.2.3 Demonstrate the use of risk assessment in relation to health and safety in a healthcare setting • 5.6.2 Demonstrate correct donning, doffing and disposal of PPE	
10.4.2 Demonstrate matching identity against National IT software and scanning equipment	

Screening technician to enter name

• 7.1.2 Demonstrate ways to maintain confidentiality in day-to-day communication in a screening setting • 7.3.2 Demonstrate practices that ensure security when storing and accessing information in a screening setting	
10.1.2 Use the correct scanning position to minimise the risk of work-related upper limb and musculoskeletal disorders • 4.2.3 Demonstrate the use of risk assessment in relation to health and safety in a healthcare setting	
10.4.3 Demonstrate applying the transducer to the abdomen and manoeuvring it to obtain images in both transverse and longitudinal planes • 5.2.3 Demonstrate adherence to organisational IPC procedures relevant to own role • 5.7.2 Demonstrate correct hand hygiene technique	
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Screening technician to enter name

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10.4.8 Demonstrate capture of an ultrasound image at the widest point as per national guidance	
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Screening technician to enter name

10.6.1 Demonstrate how to follow agreed protocols to determine the appropriate pathway for an individual following an AAA screening event

AND

10.6.2 Demonstrate effective communication of screening results and next steps to the individual, ensuring understanding and support

Screening technician to enter name

Stage 2 clinical assessment

The screening technician has achieved scanning competence level

Feedback to trainee screening technician and agreed actions

(Please remember to comment on good/outstanding performance as well as areas for ongoing development)

CST name

CST signature

Trainee screening technician signature

Screening technician to enter name

External clinical assessment

Health screener diploma (HSD) unit 10 – Undertake Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

Holistic assessment: This checklist provides opportunities for the CST assessor to capture holistic competence over both the specialist and mandatory units of the HSD. Each assessment criterion is mapped to other assessment criteria of the HSD as appropriate.

Trainee screening technician name

Date of observation

Scan IDs of individuals scanned - minimum of 5, must not be person-identifiable

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
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Screening technician to enter name

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10.3.3 Demonstrate explaining the screen to an individual/carer and checking their understanding using open questions <u>AND</u>	

Screening technician to enter name

10.3.4 Demonstrate facilitating personal informed choice and gaining consent for the screening episode <u>AND</u> 10.3.5 Demonstrate gaining consent for the use of the individual's personal and screening episode data • 2.6.1 Demonstrate actions that model inclusive practice • 2.6.2 Demonstrate actions that promote diversity • 2.6.3 Demonstrate actions that promote equality	
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Screening technician to enter name

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Screening technician to enter name

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Screening technician to enter name

• 7.3.3 Demonstrate how to maintain records that are up to date, complete, accurate and legible in accordance with workplace policies	
10.6.1 Demonstrate how to follow agreed protocols to determine the appropriate pathway for an individual following an AAA screening event <u>AND</u> 10.6.2 Demonstrate effective communication of screening results and next steps to the individual, ensuring understanding and support	

Screening technician to enter name

External clinical assessment

The screening technician has achieved scanning competence level

Feedback to trainee screening technician and agreed actions

(Please remember to comment on good/outstanding performance as well as areas for ongoing development)

Internal CST name

Signature

External CST name

Signature

Trainee screening technician signature

Confirmation of semi-independent scanning

I confirm that

(trainee screening technician name)

has successfully completed:

- *minimum of 100 training scans*
- *stage 1 clinical assessment*
- *stage 2 clinical assessment*
- *external clinical assessment*
- *minimum of 300 hours of supervised learning/work based experience*

I am satisfied that..... (trainee's name)

has achieved the competence level to scan semi-independently under the auspice of the NHS AAA screening programme.

I confirm there will be CST support as required and that the first 100 scans after successfully completing the external assessment will be quality assured within 1 working week of the images being taken.

CST name.....

CST signature..... **Date:**.....

**Local AAA screening service programme
manager/coordinator name**.....

**Local AAA screening service programme
manager/coordinator signature**..... **Date:**.....

I confirm that the local AAA screening service is satisfied with the competence of

..... (trainee screening technician name)

and accept responsibility for their scans before completion of the health screener diploma.

Clinical lead name.....

Clinical lead signature..... **Date:**.....

This confirmation is valid for up to 24 months from the date of external clinical assessment. Local services are advised to keep a copy of this form.