

National Screening Programmes - Guide for Staff

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The national screening programmes are aimed at large numbers of apparently healthy individuals with no symptoms. You will be invited to take part at different times in your life when risk to your health is greater. **Screening can detect cancers at an early stage and even prevent some cancers from developing in the first place. Early detection offers the option of treatment when it's most effective; saving thousands of lives each year.** That said, screening is not perfect and it can miss cancers. Sometimes the tests themselves have risks or side effects so it's important you make an informed choice whether or not to participate.

Breast Screening (Mammogram):

[Easy Read Guide](#)

Offered to women **aged 50 to 70 every 3 years**. Rolling programme which invites women from GP practices in turn so not every woman receives an invitation as soon as she is 50. **Women aged 70 or over can self-refer.**

(N.B Some women aged 47 to 49 or 71 to 73 may receive an invitation as part of a national pilot to explore the benefits of women receiving two extra screening invitations in their lifetime and for women to receive their first screening invitation by their 50th birthday.)

You may need extra time at your appointment if, for example, you're a wheelchair user, you have a disability, you have breast implants or you are anxious. Avoid deodorant on the day and take a cardigan if you have one. If you are over 70 and want to opt back in, you require an interpreter or you need to change your appointment – **please ring the Barnsley Breast Screening Unit on 01226 432100**. View or print the [Barnsley Patient Journey leaflet](#) and check out this 'walk through' of a visit to Barnsley Breast Screening Unit if you're not sure what to expect.

Cervical Screening (Smear): [Jo's Trust 'Time to Test' Pledge for Employers](#) ['The Smear Test Film'](#) & [Easy Read Guide for LDD](#)

Offered to patients **aged 25 to 49 every 3 years** and patients **aged 50 to 64 every 5 years**. Please tell the surgery if you need extra time due to language barriers, a disability or if you are feeling anxious. If this is your first screening or you haven't had one for some time, this 'walk through' [film](#) may help. Ask your surgery for details. If you are having difficulty getting an appointment at your own surgery or there's another reason which makes attending at your own surgery difficult (you work shifts, you're worried about seeing people you know) ask your surgery to book you into one of the Hubs who offer evening and weekend appointments.

HPV Immunisation:

In schools, girls aged 11 to 13 will be offered the HPV (Human Papillomavirus) Vaccine, boys from September 2019. They can have the vaccine up to the age of 18 through their GP. **Women who received the HPV vaccine as girls still need to take up their cervical screening when invited.**

Bowel Screening:

[Easy Read Guide](#)

Offered to men and women **aged 60 to 74 every 2 years**. Those aged 75+ can opt back in by ringing the Hub on 0800 7076060.

N.B The existing FOB (Faecal Occult Blood) Test will soon be replaced by FIT (Faecal Immunochemical Test) screening kit requiring only one sample rather than the previous three. GPs will have access to a different FIT test for those patients who present with symptoms of bowel cancer. It is very important that patients who present with symptoms still complete the FIT test issued by the GP even if they have completed the FIT for screening previously as the thresholds are different.

Diabetic Eye Screening:

Offered annually to people with diabetes from the age of 12. If you have been told your diabetes is in remission you must still attend diabetic eye screening. **For more information watch this [film](#) or Tel: 01226 434576/434577.**

AAA Screening (Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm):

Men are invited for screening when they're 65. Men over 65 who have not been screened can self-refer. **For more information watch this [film](#) or Tel: 01709 649100.**

Antenatal & Newborn Screening:

There are 6 antenatal and newborn screening programmes and these screening tests need to be carried out at set times. Please see the antenatal and newborn timeline for full details of the optimum times for testing. Visit: <http://cpd.screening.nhs.uk/timeline>
Linked Antenatal and Newborn Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia
Infectious Diseases in Pregnancy
Down's Syndrome and Fetal Anomaly Ultrasound Screening
Newborn Hearing

CANCER SAFE

Screening



Screening tests are available for a number of different cancers. If you are invited for screening, go, even if you don't think you have any symptoms.

Awareness



Be aware of changes to your body or unusual symptoms. Check your body regularly for any changes.

Fast



If you are experiencing symptoms, act fast. Book an appointment with your GP as soon as possible. Talk to your GP about all your symptoms, no matter how small you may think they are.

Early



Early detection of cancer greatly improves survival. If you are worried about your health it's better to Be Cancer Safe and have your symptoms checked as soon as possible.

Visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/nhs-screening/> for more information about these national screening programmes.

Whether you choose to participate in the screening programme or not it's really important to know your body, to recognise any unusual changes for you and to see your GP with any concerns. It's probably not cancer but please have a chat with your GP sooner rather than later.

If you'd like to know more about the signs and symptoms of the most common cancers see the *Signs and Symptoms - Guide for Patients*.

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