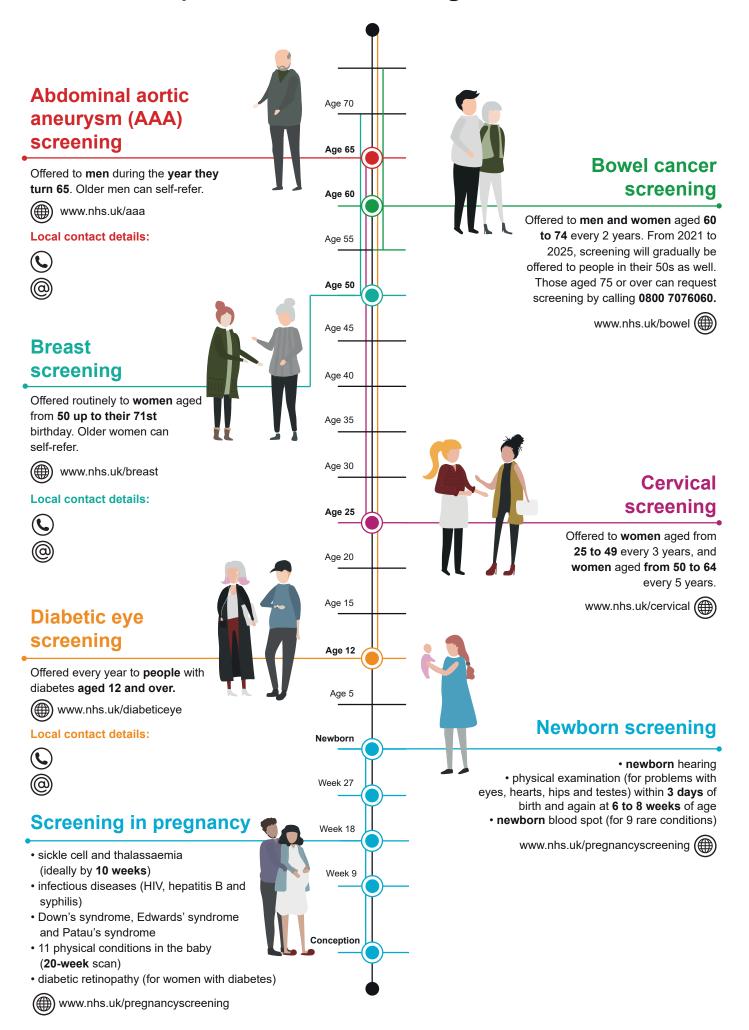
Population screening timeline





Population screening explained

SCREENING TEST

ADVICE AND SUPPORT

FURTHER TESTS

TREATMENT

NO FURTHER ACTION

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.



Every screening invitation should include or signpost to accessible, nationally approved, evidence-based information to help you make your choice.

For more information about the screening programmes in England, visit: www.nhs.uk/screening or www.gov.uk/screening

You can also watch short animations about screening at: www.gov.uk/guidance/population-screening-explained

The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) maintains this resource.

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