

Cancer Screening



The NHS offers a range of cancer screening tests to different people.



Screening is a way of finding out if you are likely to have a health problem.



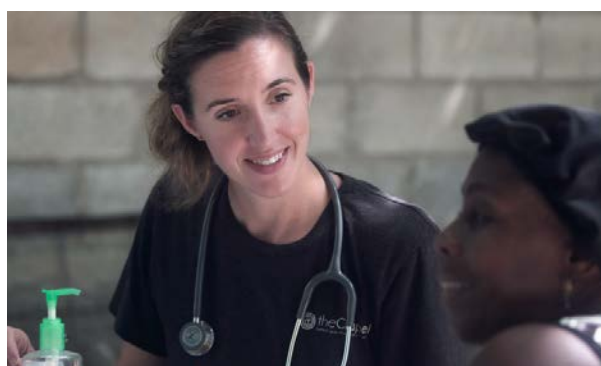
Early treatment can be given to you as soon as possible to make it easier for you to make good decisions about your health.



We can also give you lots of accessible information to help you understand.



There are three national screening tests to check for cancer, they are for bowel, breast and cervical cancer.



The tests are simple and everything will be explained to you before it happens.



Cervical Screening



Cervical screening is a check to prevent cancer of the cervix.



Invitations are sent by post to all women and people with a cervix aged 25 to 64 years.



They are sent:
every 3 years (25 - 49 years)
every 5 years (50 - 64 years)



The letter will ask you to book an appointment by phone.



Trans men (registered as male with their GP) are not sent invitations automatically but they can still be screened if they have a cervix.



Bowel Screening



Bowel screening is a check for cancer of the bowels. These are internal organs inside your body.



Bowel cancer screening is offered to everyone aged 60 to 74 every 2 years.



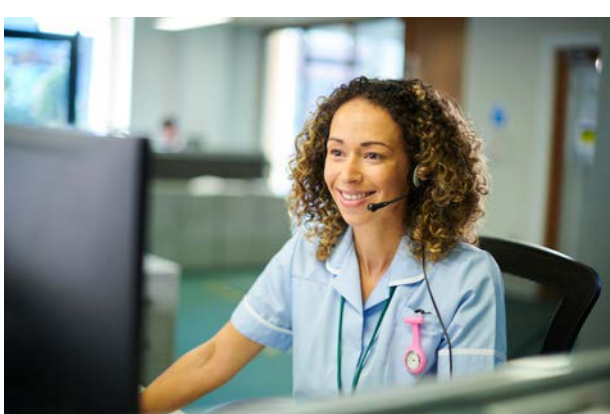
People eligible for bowel cancer screening get an invitation letter and an information leaflet.



A testing kit will be sent in the post about a week later. It will include instructions on how to use it at home.



The bowel screening programme will gradually invite everyone aged 50-59 years.



People over 74 years can ask for a screening kit every 2 years by calling the free helpline on 0800 707 60 60.



Breast Screening



Breast screening is a test to check for cancer of the breast.



Women are invited for breast screening every 3 years between 50 and 71 years.



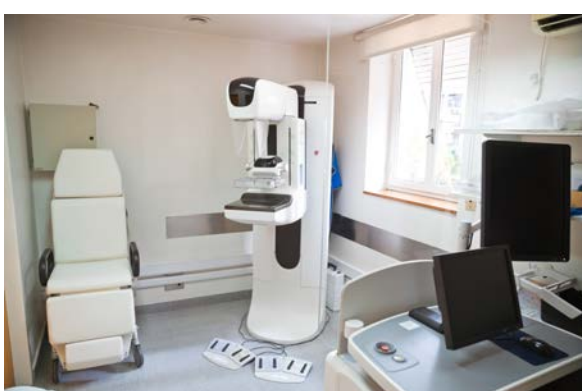
The first invitation to screening is sent some time between your 50th and 53rd birthday.



People aged 71 or over do not receive breast screening invitations but can still have a screen every 3 years.



An appointment can be arranged by calling 020 3748 2024.



The breast screening X-ray (mammogram) is done at a clinic or mobile breast screening unit.

