Free NHS Screening in Wales

Screening is a process of identifying apparently healthy people who may be at increased risk of a disease or condition. They can then be offered information, further tests and appropriate treatment to reduce their risk and/or any complications arising from the disease or condition. Screening programmes allow for the early detection and treatment of potential health problems. There are a number of free screening tests offered by the NHS in Wales. Invites for screening come from a central organization called Public Health Wales. They will get in touch when you are due for a particular screening test and will send you more information about it including risks and benefits. For further general information about screening in Wales check out the website “Screening for Life” [www.screeningforlife.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.screeningforlife.wales.nhs.uk)

Screening tests available

Antenatal Screening – you will be offered antenatal screening tests during your pregnancy to check the health of you and your baby. [www.antenatalscreening.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.antenatalscreening.wales.nhs.uk)

Newborn bloodspot screening – this screening identifies babies who may have rare but serious conditions

[www.newbornbloodspotscreening.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.newbornbloodspotscreening.wales.nhs.uk)

Newborn hearing screening – identifies if your baby has a hearing loss that could affect their speech and language development. [www.newbornhearingscreening.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.newbornhearingscreening.wales.nhs.uk)

Cervical screening – a smear test. This can save lives by preventing cancer from developing in the cervix. Women aged **25** to **49** are invited for screening every **3** years. Women aged **50** to **64** are invited every **5** years. [www.cervicalscreeningwales.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.cervicalscreeningwales.wales.nhs.uk)

Breast screening – Women aged **50** to **70** are invited for a breast x-ray every 3 years.If you are over 70, you can ask for a breast screening appointment by phoning Breast test Wales. [www.breasttestwales.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.breasttestwales.wales.nhs.uk)

Bowel screening – Men and women aged **60** to **74** are invited to take part in screening every 2 years. [www.bowelscreening.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.bowelscreening.wales.nhs.uk)

Abdominal aortic aneurysm screening – AAA screening can save lives by finding a swelling(aneurysm) of the aorta(main blood vessel) in the abdomen. Men who are 65 years old will be invited for a noe-off screening test. If you are over 65, you can ask for an appointment by phoning your local screening centre. [www.aaascreeening.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.aaascreeening.wales.nhs.uk)

Diabetic eye screening – eye screening can prevent sight loss by finding retinopathy (a complication of diabetes)at an early stage. All people ageed 12 and over with a diagnosis of diabetes and who are registered with a GP in Wales, are invited for regular screening. [www.eyecare.wales.nhs.uk/DRSSW](http://www.eyecare.wales.nhs.uk/DRSSW)

