

NHS Cancer Screening Programmes

More than 1 in 3 people will develop some form of cancer during their lifetime. It is estimated that over half of all cancers are potentially preventable. The earlier a cancer can be diagnosed the better the treatment and survival rates.

Cancer screening can be an effective way of detecting cancer early or preventing cancer from developing in the first place.

Breast Cancer Screening

Women aged 50-70 are invited every 3 years.

Women over the age of 70 can request an appointment by contacting the local breast screening unit on 01384 244177.

This programme is gradually being extended to include women aged 47 to 73.

Bowel Cancer Screening

Men and women aged 60-74 receive a bowel screening kit through the post every 2 years. The screening kit is known as the [FOB test](#) and is completed at home and returned by post. It looks for traces of blood in poo.

People over 75 can request a screening kit by calling the helpline on 0800 707 6060.

Bowel Scope Screening

Is a one-off test offered to men and women at the age of 55. It uses a thin, flexible tube with a tiny camera on the end to look at the large bowel. It finds and removes any small bowel growths, called polyps that could eventually turn into cancer.

If you decide not to have the test when you are first invited, you can still have it at any time up until your 60th birthday by calling the free phone helpline number on 0800 707 60 60.

Cervical Cancer Screening (Smear Test)

Women aged 25-49 are invited for cervical screening every 3 years.

Women aged 50-64 are invited every 5 years.

More information about cancer screening can be found at www.nhs.uk