

UK NSC bladder cancer recommendation

Following a review of the evidence against strict criteria, the UK NSC does not currently recommend universal screening for bladder cancer in adults

Bladder cancer is the seventh most common cancer in the UK, with over half of the identified cases being in people aged 75 and over.

Symptoms can include discomfort when urinating, and visible blood in the urine.

This review looks at whether any screening tests have been developed which would be suitable for use in adults who do not have any symptoms or any family history of the disease. For a bladder cancer screening programme to be effective, a test which can reliably detect cancer in its early stages is needed.

Key findings supporting the UK NSC recommendation

- No test was identified which would be suitable for use in a screening programme. Blood in the urine remains a poor predictor of bladder cancer. The possibility of improving this by detecting blood in combination with different elements in the urine had been explored. These approaches would still result in a large number of people being falsely identified as having cancer.
- Other potential approaches to screening, for example genetic testing, were identified. But these were in the early stages of development and their usefulness for screening had not been established.

The UK NSC regularly reviews its recommendations on screening for different conditions in the light of new research evidence becoming available.

To find out more about the UK NSC's bladder cancer recommendation, please visit:

www.screening.nhs.uk/bladdercancer

The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) is chaired by the Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England, advises Ministers and the NHS in the four UK countries about all aspects of screening and supports implementation of screening programmes. Using research evidence, pilot programmes and economic evaluation, it assesses the evidence for programmes against a set of internationally recognised criteria covering the condition, the test, the treatment options and the effectiveness and acceptability of the screening programme. Assessing programmes in this way is intended to ensure that they do more good than harm at a reasonable cost. The UK NSC also sets up practical mechanisms to oversee the introduction of new programmes in the English NHS and monitors effectiveness and quality of these programmes.

Find out more about the UK National Screening Committee at www.screening.nhs.uk. The UK NSC evidence review process is described at www.screening.nhs.uk/policyreview and a list of all UK NSC recommendations can be found at www.screening.nhs.uk/recommendations

The UK NSC is supported by Public Health England (www.gov.uk/phe).