



UK NSC recommendation on screening for thrombophilia in pregnancy

Following a review of the evidence against strict criteria, the UK NSC does not currently recommend screening for thrombophilia in pregnancy.

Thrombophilia is a broad term that covers a number of conditions where the blood clots easily. It may be hereditary or it may develop during a person's life.

During pregnancy, women with thrombophilia may be at increased risk of:

- blood clots in their leg veins (deep vein thrombosis also known as venous thromboembolism or VTE)
- other complications such as high blood pressure
- birth of a preterm or small baby

Routine screening in pregnancy might help to identify women that could benefit from treatment, as this may improve the baby's health.

Key findings supporting the UK NSC recommendation

Pregnant women that are at higher risk of thrombophilia, through inherited disease or other risk factors, are already assessed for VTE risk factors. These include previous VTE, increased age, obesity, smoking, and obstetric risk factors such as preterm birth or pre-eclampsia.

A national screening programme for thrombophilia in every pregnant woman is not recommended by the UK NSC because:

- there is no evidence to suggest that universal screening of all pregnant women would offer more benefit compared with current practice
- there are inconclusive findings on the safety and effectiveness of treatment

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 antenatal thrombophilia recommendation, please visit:

legacyscreening.phe.org.uk/thrombophilia

The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) advises ministers and the NHS in the 4 UK countries about all aspects of screening and supports implementation of screening programmes.

Find out more about the UK National Screening Committee at www.gov.uk/uknsc. The UK NSC evidence review process is described at www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-nsc-evidence-review-process and a list of all UK NSC recommendations can be found at legacyscreening.nhs.uk/recommendations

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