

## UK National Screening Committee

### Screening for thrombophilia in the neonatal and general adult populations

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017

#### Aim

1. To ask the UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) to make a recommendation, based on the evidence in this document, whether or not screening for thrombophilia in neonatal and general adult populations meets the UK NSC criteria to support the introduction of a population screening programme.

#### Current recommendation

1. A 2010 UK NSC review considered antenatal screening for thrombophilia. The current UK NSC policy is that systematic population screening for thrombophilia in newborns and adults is not recommended.

#### Review

2. The current review was undertaken by Solutions for Public Health, in accordance with the triennial review process <https://legacyscreening.phe.org.uk/thrombophilia>
3. The aim of the review is to establish whether there is a body of evidence of sufficient volume and quality to justify undertaking a more in depth evidence review work on screening for thrombophilia in neonates and adults.
4. The evidence summary did not identify any studies assessing screening strategies for detecting thrombophilia in newborns or adults. Nor did it find evidence about treatment to prevent thrombosis in newborns or adults found through a screening programme.
5. The review concluded that there is insufficient evidence to evaluate screening for thrombophilia in adults or neonates. **Criteria 4, 9 and 11 not met**
6. The conclusion of the review is therefore that systematic population screening for thrombophilia in newborns and adults should not be recommended in the UK.

## Consultation

7. A three month consultation was hosted on the UK NSC website. Direct emails were sent to 7 individuals/ organisations. **Annex A**
8. Responses were received from the following two stakeholders; The Royal College of Pathologists, and The Dudley Group NHS FT are in **Annex B**, below.

Both responses agreed with the conclusion of the review.

## Recommendation

9. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation:

*A systematic population screening programme for thrombophilia in neonatal and general adult populations is not recommended.*

Based on the 20 UK NSC criteria set to recommend a population screening programme, evidence was appraised against the following two criteria:

Criteria		Met / Not met
<b>The Test</b>		
4	There should be a simple, safe, precise and validated screening test	Not met ✗
<b>The intervention</b>		
9	There should be an effective intervention for patients identified through screening, with evidence that intervention at a pre-symptomatic phase leads to better outcomes for the screened individual compared with usual care. Evidence relating to wider benefits of screening, for example those relating to family members, should be taken into account where available. However, where there is no prospect of benefit for the individual screened then the screening programme shouldn't be further considered.	Not met ✗
<b>The screening programme</b>		
11	There should be evidence from high quality randomised controlled trials that the screening programme is effective in reducing mortality or morbidity. Where screening is aimed solely at providing information to allow the person being screened to make an "informed choice" (such as Down's syndrome or cystic fibrosis carrier screening), there must be evidence from high quality trials that the test accurately measures risk. The information that is provided about the test and its outcome must be of value and readily understood by the individual being screened.	Not met ✗

**List of organisations\individuals contacted:**

1. Dr Roopen Arya
2. The British Society for Haematology
3. Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
4. Royal College of Pathologists
5. Royal College of Physicians
6. Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow
7. Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh



<b>Name:</b>	Jeffrey Neilson	<b>Email address:</b>	xxxx xxxx
<b>Organisation (if appropriate):</b>	The Dudley Group NHS FT		
<b>Role:</b>	Consultant Haematologist		
<p>Do you consent to your name being published on the UK NSC website alongside your response?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>			
<p>On which review are you commenting?</p> <p>Antenatal screening <input type="checkbox"/> Neonatal and general population <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>			
<b>Section and / or page number</b>	<b>Text or issue to which comments relate</b>	<b>Comment</b> <i>Please use a new row for each comment and add extra rows as required.</i>	
10	Conclusion	Agree with the conclusion that no need to routinely update.	



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Screening for Thrombophilia – an evidence review

Consultation comments pro-forma

<b>Name:</b>	Dr Rachael Liebmann	<b>Email address:</b>	xxxx xxxx
<b>Organisation (if appropriate):</b>	Royal College of Pathologists		
<b>Role:</b>	Registrar		
<p>Do you consent to your name being published on the UK NSC website alongside your response?</p> <p>Yes X <input type="checkbox"/></p>			
<p>On which review are you commenting?</p> <p>Antenatal screening X      Neonatal and general population X</p>			

Section and / or page number	Text or issue to which comments relate	Comment
		<i>Please use a new row for each comment and add extra rows as required.</i>
	Consultation document	<b>1 About the Royal College of Pathologists</b>
		<p><b>1.1</b> The Royal College of Pathologists (RCPATH) is a professional membership organisation with charitable status. It is committed to setting and maintaining professional standards and to promoting excellence in the teaching and practice of pathology. Pathology is the science at the heart of modern medicine and is involved in 70 per cent of all diagnoses made within the National Health Service. The College aims to advance the science and practice of pathology, to provide public education, to promote research in pathology and to disseminate the results. We have over 10,000 members across 19 specialties working in hospital laboratories, universities and industry worldwide to diagnose, treat and prevent illness.</p>
		<p><b>1.2</b> The Royal College of Pathologists response reflects comments made by Fellows and members of the College during the consultation, which ran from 14th February 2017 until the 21st April 2017 and collated by Dr Rachael Liebmann, Registrar.</p>

		<p><b>2 COMMENTS</b></p> <p><b>2.1</b> In response to the proposals the Fellows pointed out the current consultation maintains the position adopted in its guidance by the British Society for Haematology/ British Committee for Standards in Haematology.</p>
		<p><b>2.3</b> In general the responses to the consultation were favourable. Fellows of the College, for whom the subject matter falls within their area of expertise and clinical practice, were satisfied that these were well-conducted reviews and that the conclusions reached took into account all appropriate and relevant evidence.</p>
		<p><b>2.4</b> Some Fellows considered that thrombophilia should not be part of a routine screening tool but used for selected patients whose management would change or be influenced by such a test. Others pointed out that routine screening should not take place as no prophylaxis would be given if the person was on screening to have a thrombophilic condition.</p>

Please return to the UK NSC Evidence Team [screening.evidence@nhs.net](mailto:screening.evidence@nhs.net) by 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017