



UK NSC recommendation on screening for thrombophilia in newborn babies and adults

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

Thrombophilia increases an individual's risk of developing a blood clot. Clots can be dangerous if they break away and block blood flow (and oxygen) to important organs such as the heart, lungs or brain.

This can be very serious, resulting in a stroke, heart attack, deep vein thrombosis and death.

Thrombophilia can either be inherited or develop later on in adult life.

Routine screening in newborn babies and adults might help to identify which individual could benefit from treatment in order to prevent blood clotting.

Key findings supporting the UK NSC recommendation

A national screening programme for thrombophilia in the newborn and general adult populations is not recommended by the UK NSC. This is because the review did not find any research on screening programmes, nor was there evidence about how good the treatment is for people found through a screening programme.

Therefore, there is not enough evidence to suggest that a screening programme for thrombophilia in newborn babies or adults would offer more benefit than current practice.

There are clinical practice guidelines from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) for the diagnosis and management of diseases related to thrombophilia in adults and the role of thrombophilia testing.

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 newborn and adult 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 legacy.screening.nhs.uk/recommendations

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