



UK NSC screening for dementia recommendation

Following a review of the evidence against strict criteria, the UK NSC does not currently recommend universal screening for dementia.

Dementia is a term used to describe brain diseases that cause ongoing decline in thinking skills and the ability to carry out everyday activities such as washing and dressing.

Dementia can also result in mental health problems and cause changes to the personality and behaviour in those affected by the condition. Dementia becomes more common as people age. About 10% of people over the age of 70 have dementia.

Key findings supporting the UK NSC recommendation

There are no screening tests that can accurately identify people in the general population with dementia who do not already have symptoms. Research on better tests for dementia is ongoing but these are in the early stages.

There is no evidence of effective treatments in people with dementia.

The public and healthcare professionals have mixed views on whether screening for dementia is acceptable, mainly because of the lack of treatment and concern about stigma associated with being diagnosed with the condition.

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 screening for dementia, please visit:

<https://legacyscreening.phe.org.uk/dementia>

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).