

# FACT SHEET

## ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSM SCREENING

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) screening is a quick ultrasound scan to check the health of the Aorta – the main blood vessel that runs from your heart down to your tummy.

The screening is a way of checking if there's a bulge or swelling in the aorta. This bulge or swelling is called an abdominal aortic aneurysm, or AAA.

An Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm will often cause few or no obvious symptoms. Screening can help spot a swelling early on and when it can usually be treated before it becomes serious.

### Who can have screening?

In England, screening for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm is offered to men during the year they turn 65. Men aged 65 or over are most at risk of getting AAAs.

Screening is not routinely offered to:

- women
- men under 65
- people who have already been treated for an AAA

This is because the risk of getting an Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm is much smaller in these groups.

If you're over 65 years old, you can ask for a scan to check for an Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm if you think you might need one but haven't been offered a screening.

Double check that you're registered with a GP surgery to be invited for screening.

### If you're worried or need advice:

Concerned about a screening appointment or have any symptoms?

- Speak to a GP for advice

**Search 'NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm' for further guidance.**

*All information is provided by the NHS*



To talk to someone in confidence, contact Healthwatch Stockport

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