Living with blood cancer

Screening programmes



Screening programmes are health checks that can find some cancers and other conditions early. Screening tests can lead to early treatment which may work better for you than waiting until you get symptoms.

Blood cancer and its treatments may increase your risk of other cancers. Screening tests are an important part of looking after your overall health and helping you live well.

Screening you might be offered

The NHS runs free screening programmes that you may be offered depending on your age, sex, medical history and where you live. They include:

Bowel cancer screening. Everyone aged 50 to 74 is offered bowel cancer screening every 2 years.

Breast screening. Women aged 50 to 70 are offered breast screening every 3 years. Trans and non-binary people registered as female with their GP will also be invited for screening.

Cervical cancer screening. Women aged 25 to 64 are offered cervical screening every 5 years. If you're trans or non-binary and have a cervix, this screening is also for you.

Lung cancer screening. Anyone aged 55 to 74 who has ever smoked may be offered lung cancer screening every 2 years, if available. This screening test is not offered in all parts of the UK yet.

When the NHS invite you for screening, they will send you more information, so you'll know what to expect.

If you notice a new symptom or change to your body, you don't need to wait for a screening appointment. Contact your GP to get checked.

What screening involves

Depending on the condition being tested for, you might:

- Do a simple test at home and send it off by post
- Attend an in-person appointment
- Have a telephone appointment

What the results mean

Screening tests are a way of checking your risk of having a condition. They do not tell you if you definitely do, or do not, have a condition.

- If your result shows a lower risk of having the condition screened for, it's good news. You may still need screening again in the future, to check if your risk has changed.
- If your result shows a higher risk of having the condition screened for, you may need further tests. These tests work out if you definitely do or do not have it. If you do have the condition, you'll be offered treatment and support.

If you find out about cancer or another condition early, it may be easier to treat.

Need support or information?

- Scan the QR code or visit **leukaemiacare.org.uk**
- Call our freephone helpline on **08088 010 444**
- Send a WhatsApp to **07500 068065**
- Email **support@leukaemiacare.org.uk**

This information is aimed at people in the UK. We do our best to make sure it is accurate and up to date but it should not replace advice or guidance from your health professional. If you have any feedback or you'd like a list of our sources, please email information@leukaemiacare.org.uk.

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Leukaemia Care

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