Scottish Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)
Screening Programme Statistics

Year ending 31 March 2017
An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release
This publication from Information Services Division provides an update on the Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm screening programme for men aged 65 in Scotland.

Main Points
Key Performance Indicator results for the year ending 31 March 2017:

- Uptake of AAA screening remained high with 84% of men in Scotland tested before age 66 and 3 months, well above the essential threshold of 70%. All NHS Boards achieved high uptake, with a rate of 80% or higher.
- Although the essential threshold of 70% uptake was met in all deprivation quintiles, uptake of screening was lower in the most deprived areas.

![Percentage of men offered screening who are tested before age 66 and 3 months by deprivation, Scotland; men who turned 66 in year ending 31 March 2017](image-url)
• 74% of men referred to vascular specialist services for assessment were seen within two weeks, slightly below the essential threshold of 75%.
• 33% of men deemed appropriate for aneurysm repair surgery were operated on by a vascular specialist within eight weeks. This was substantially below the essential threshold of 60%.
• The AAA screening programme in Scotland met or exceeded the essential threshold in 10 of the 12 performance indicators.

Screening tests and results:
• Among men routinely eligible for screening in the latest year, over 25,500 were tested and 350 (1.4%) had a positive result.
• Since the screening programme began in 2012, over 113,000 men routinely eligible for screening in Scotland have been tested and 1,662 had a positive result. The aneurysm detection rate has stayed constant since the programme began at around 1.5%.

Background

An Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) is a swelling of the aorta, the main artery in the body, as it passes through the abdomen. The condition is most common in men aged 65 and over and usually there are no symptoms. Large aneurysms are uncommon but can be very serious. As the wall of the aorta stretches, it becomes weaker, and it can rupture (burst). If the aneurysm ruptures, this leads to life-threatening internal bleeding and, in 8 out of 10 cases, death.

The Scottish AAA screening programme aims to reduce deaths associated with the risk of aneurysm rupture in men aged 65 and over by identifying aneurysms early so that they can be monitored or treated. Men aged 65 are sent an invitation to attend AAA screening. Men over 65 years of age, who have not been screened previously, can self-refer into the screening programme.

Please see News and Updates section of our website for more details.

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Further Information

Find out more in the full report. The data from this publication is available to download from our web page. For more information on AAA Screening see the AAA Screening section of our website.

The next release of this publication will be in March 2019.

ISD and Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of ‘Official Statistics’. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Further information about our statistics.