

UK National Screening Committee submission of 20 February 2024

PE2062/C: Introduce a National Screening Programme for Prostate Cancer

There is currently no screening programme for prostate cancer in the UK. The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) does not recommend prostate cancer screening because the prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood test, which is usually the first step towards a diagnosis, is not nearly reliable enough as a primary screening test.

The UK NSC contributed to work with Prostate Cancer UK thinking on the design of the TRANSFORM randomised controlled trial.

The TRANSFORM trial will aim to establish if various testing strategies, including using MRI scans up front for screening, could tip the balance in favour of a screening programme, for example by detecting disease that PSA testing misses and by reducing the amount of insignificant disease found.

The UK NSC will look forward to seeing the results of this trial.

In the meantime, the UK NSC is itself commissioning an analysis of prostate cancer screening in response to the following 6 submissions that were put forward during its annual call for topics:

- Targeted screening proposal using PSA testing and high-risk factors, such as family history and ethnicity, to screen for prostate cancer.
- Proposal to offer targeted screening for carriers of the BRCA2 gene.
- Population and risk stratified proposal for a national programme based on the PSA test for all men aged 45 to 70, with frequency of testing stratified by individual risk calculated from an initial, normal PSA, age, ethnicity, and family history, initially yearly for high-risk men and 3 to 5-yearly for low-risk men. Men with an abnormal PSA would be referred according to current 2-week wait and NICE criteria for mpMRI prostate scanning.
- Proposal for targeted screening of Black men aged 45 to 70.
- Targeted screening proposal to screen men between 50 and 69 with a Charlson co-morbidity index (less than or equal to 3) using the Stockholm3 blood test.
- Targeted screening proposal to screen men aged 45 to 70 who have a first-degree relative diagnosed with prostate, breast, or ovarian cancer (relevant family history).

The UK NSC aims to review its screening recommendations every 3 years.