

Kent & Medway Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme for men aged 65+

Men aged 65 and over are most at risk from abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA). Invitations for screening are therefore being sent out to men in the area in the year they turn 65. **Those over 65 who have never been invited for AAA screening can ask for a scan by contacting the local screening service.**

An estimated 80,000 men in England aged between 65 and 74 are affected by the condition, which is caused when the main blood vessel in the abdomen – the aorta – weakens and starts to expand. If undetected, the condition can be fatal and around 6,000 men die every year from a burst AAA.

The NHS AAA Screening Programme aims to reduce deaths from the condition by up to 50 per cent among men aged 65 and over by detecting AAAs early and enabling monitoring or treatment to be offered. For men aged over 65 who have never been screened about 2 in every 100 are found to have an aneurysm that either needs to be monitored regularly or treated.

The test is a simple scan of the abdomen lasting approximately 10 minutes and, in most cases, results are given immediately. There are generally no symptoms associated with AAAs, which is why screening is important.

More information can be found by visiting the national programme website at: www.nhs.uk/aaa or by contacting the Kent and Medway AAA Screening Office on: tel: 01227 868775 or emailing ekhuft.aaascreening@nhs.net