

I haven't received my screening invite, what should I do?

If you haven't had a screening invitation when you think you should, contact your GP surgery. If you have lost your screening invitation letter or missed a screening in the past, you can still take part in screening. If you aren't registered with a GP, you can find a local GP in [England](#).

Why can't screening be offered to all age ranges?

Cancer screening is offered at ages when the benefits are biggest and the harms are smallest.

People who are younger than the screening age are usually at a lower risk for that type of cancer. This means that for most of these people, the harms of screening would outweigh the benefits.

Normally, you can't be screened for cancer before the age the programme starts. If you are at higher risk you may be able to start screening earlier. For example, if you have a family history of breast or bowel cancer. You can talk to your GP if you are worried about this.

I don't have symptoms, do I still need to go to my screening appointment?

Cancer screening is for people who do not have symptoms. Screening means testing people for early stages of a cancer, or for early changes that could develop into cancer if left untreated. Please book in for your screening or attend your screening appointment as soon as possible.

I had my screening but now I have some symptoms, what should I do?

If you have symptoms or have noticed anything that is not normal for you, tell your doctor - don't wait for a cancer screening invitation. Cancer Research UK [have advice on talking to your doctor here.](#)

Why isn't screening available for all cancers?

Screening programmes are only set up for a cancer type if they will save lives from the disease without too much risk. If there isn't a good enough screening test, or screening would do more harm overall, then a screening programme isn't introduced.

For a screening programme to work, it needs to have a good enough test. This test must: reliably find any cancers or abnormal changes that could lead to cancer, not cause too many false alarms, be acceptable, so that people will actually take the test, not be dangerous to health and be cost-effective.

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macmillan Cancer Support The UK's leading cancer care charity • Cancer Research UK
Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancer Screening Resource Directory - Transformation Partners in Health and Care • CRUK • Macmillan • NHS England » Screening and earlier diagnosis • Home Early Detect Early Protect (earlydetectearlyprotect-nhs.co.uk) • https://www.transformationpartners.nhs.uk/programmes/cancer/early-diagnosis/ed-screening/cancer-screening-resource-directory/ • Primary care resources - RM Partners • Conversational Toolkit Early Detect Early Protect (earlydetectearlyprotect-nhs.co.uk)
Breast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to book or change a breast screening appointment - NHS (www.nhs.uk) • Find breast screening services - NHS (www.nhs.uk)
Lung	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home - Lung Health Checks West London (lunghealthchecks-westlondon.nhs.uk) • Lung health checks - NHS (www.nhs.uk)
Cervical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to book cervical screening - NHS (www.nhs.uk) • Home Gynaecological Cancer Research Charity The Eve Appeal
Bowel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is bowel cancer? Bowel Cancer UK Bowel Cancer UK • Bowel cancer - NHS (www.nhs.uk) • Bowel Cancer Bowel Cancer UK
Prostate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prostate Cancer UK Prostate Cancer UK • What is prostate cancer? Cancer Research UK