

01 October 2017

Free Aortic Aneurysm Screening

- An abdominal aortic aneurysm is a weakening and expansion of the aorta, the main blood vessel in the body
- Large aneurysms are rare but can be very serious
- Approximately 6,000 people in England and Wales die every year from ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysms

If you are a man aged over 65 you are more likely to have an abdominal aortic aneurysm.

That is why the NHS AAA Screening Programme invites men for screening during the year (1 April to 31 March) that they turn 65.

If you have an abdominal aortic aneurysm you will not generally notice any symptoms. This means that you cannot tell if you have one, as you will not feel any pain or notice anything different.

The NHS offers screening in order to find aneurysms early so they can be checked regularly or treated if needed. The easiest way to find out if you have an aneurysm is to have a pain free ultrasound that takes around 10 minutes.

The NHS AAA Screening Programme was introduced after research showed it should reduce the number of deaths from burst aneurysms among men aged 65 and over by up to 50%

Men over 65 who have not been screened previously can arrange a screening appointment by contacting their local programme directly.

If you wish to be screened, then either contact your GP asking to be referred, or you can refer yourself direct to Taunton Musgrove hospital.

Somerset and North Devon AAA Screening Programme
Musgrove Park Hospital Taunton Somerset TA1 5DA

Tel: **01823 344567** (9-5 Monday to Friday)

Email: somerset.andnorthdevonaaa@nhs.net

Website: <http://www.musgroveparkhospital.nhs.uk/wards-and-departments/departments-services/aaa-screening-programme/>