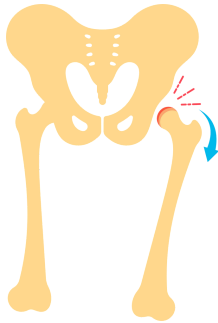


Screening for developmental dysplasia of the hip in infants in Ireland

What is this report?

The National Screening Advisory Committee requested that HIQA review the evidence on universal ultrasound screening for developmental dysplasia of the hip (DDH) in infants in Ireland.



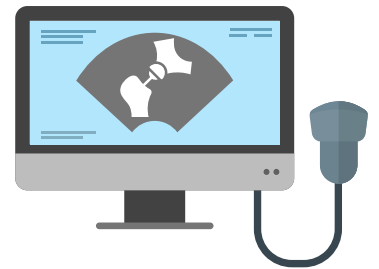
How is DDH screened?

In 2017, a selective ultrasound screening programme for DDH in Ireland was recommended, so that only those with risk factors or suspected DDH would receive an ultrasound. In a 'universal' screening programme, all babies would be screened.

What did HIQA find?

Evidence: There was limited effectiveness evidence available comparing universal and selective screening.

Practice: HIQA also looked at what is done in 18 countries and found that universal ultrasound screening was in place in two countries, while 14 have selective ultrasound screening.



How will this report be used?

We found the evidence on the effectiveness of universal ultrasound screening for DDH, compared to selective screening, too limited to allow us to make a clear conclusion on the added value of a universal screening programme.

This report has been submitted to the National Screening Advisory Committee to inform their recommendation to the Minister for Health.

What is DDH?

For children with DDH, the 'ball and socket' joint of their hip does not form properly. This can cause symptoms such as pain and difficulty walking. In mild cases, the symptoms may resolve without treatment. For more severe cases, early intervention is needed as DDH can result in long-term pain, early osteoarthritis of the hip and back, and the need for hip replacements.