

Public Consultation: Health technology assessment of screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm

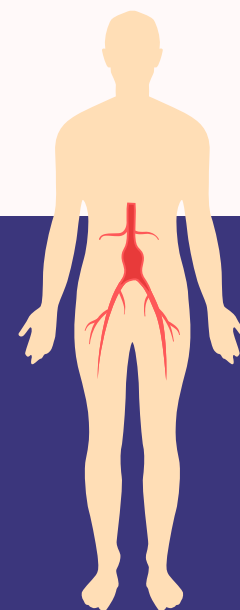
WHAT IS THIS CONSULTATION ABOUT?

We are seeking feedback on our draft health technology assessment (HTA) of a population-based screening programme for abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA or 'triple A') in men.

WHAT IS AN ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSM?

An AAA is a swelling of the aorta. The aorta carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body and is the largest artery in the body. Most AAAs do not cause any symptoms.

While not common, an AAA can have serious consequences. Rupture of an AAA can bring about life-threatening internal bleeding. Screening can help to detect AAAs earlier and facilitate timely access to surgery, when needed, to prevent rupture.



WHO IS MOST AT RISK?

Smoking

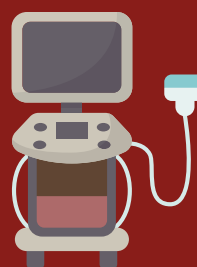
**Family
history of
AAA**

Risk factors
for AAA
include:

Male sex

Older age

WHAT DOES SCREENING INVOLVE?



Screening for AAA involves an ultrasound scan of the abdomen. The test is quick and painless.

The ultrasound scan checks if the abdominal aorta is a normal size – an abnormal size indicates the presence of an AAA.

WHAT HAS THE ASSESSMENT FOUND SO FAR?

Our draft HTA found that AAA is a clinically appropriate condition for screening. However, the relative benefits of a population-based AAA screening programme are uncertain as AAA is becoming less common. Shortages in radiology and vascular surgery capacity would need to be addressed before an AAA screening programme could be implemented.

WHY IS THIS ASSESSMENT BEING CARRIED OUT?

HIQA is undertaking this HTA of AAA screening for men to support decision-making by the National Screening Advisory Committee regarding whether or not AAA screening for men should be introduced in Ireland.



HOW DO I RESPOND TO THE CONSULTATION?

We have published a draft of this assessment and would like your feedback. An online survey and details of how to take part in the consultation are available on www.hiqa.ie, including a form that can be posted to HIQA. The deadline for submissions is 5 pm on 12 June 2025.