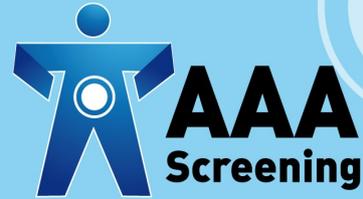


Newsletter of the Northern Ireland Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening Programme



Issue 3 Produced by the NI AAA Screening Programme for Health Care Professionals AUTUMN 2012

Northern Ireland AAA Screening at Men's Health Week

On 13th June 2012 an event was held at Belfast City Hall to encourage men to take better care of their health and seek help or treatment at an early stage.



International Men's Health Week (MHW), which is co-ordinated by the Men's Health Forum in Ireland (MHFI), ran from Monday 11th until Sunday 17th June this year. It is celebrated in most European countries and the USA, as well as a number of other places worldwide. The overall aim of MHW is to heighten awareness of preventable health problems for men of all ages.

This year, the Northern Ireland AAA Screening Programme (NIAAASP) was invited to attend the event, which was organised by the Men's Health Group, partner organisations and voluntary and community groups.

Highlights included an address by Lord Mayor, Alderman Gavin Robinson, and words of wisdom on men's health from one of Northern Ireland's best known TV characters, 'Da' (aka local comedian Tim McGarry).



AAA Screening Programme Staff Helen McCann (Administrative Assistant) and Wendy Thornton, (Project Manager for Vascular Services and Long Term Conditions) meet with Tim McGarry who entertained those attending the Men's Health Week event at Belfast City Hall in June.

The event provided an opportunity for men of all ages to drop in and avail of a wide range of health checks including cholesterol, blood sugar and blood pressure levels and alternative therapies. A barber was also on hand for anyone who fancied a trim!

It was an ideal forum for the NIAAASP team to talk to men, and representatives from groups with a specific interest in men's health, about AAA screening.



NI AAA Screening Programme Overview June-October 2012

Implementation

The Northern Ireland AAA Screening Programme commenced on 18th June 2012 in the Grove Wellbeing Centre. This marked the beginning of the first phase of AAA screening, which concentrated on the Belfast Trust area only. Venues in Belfast include the Grove Wellbeing Centre, the Arches Centre and the Bradbury Wellbeing and Treatment Centre. Wider roll-out of the programme commenced on 2nd July 2012, with screening provided in clinics throughout all Trust areas in Northern Ireland. Current venues for AAA screening include all those listed and shown on the map below.

Management & Treatment of AAAs

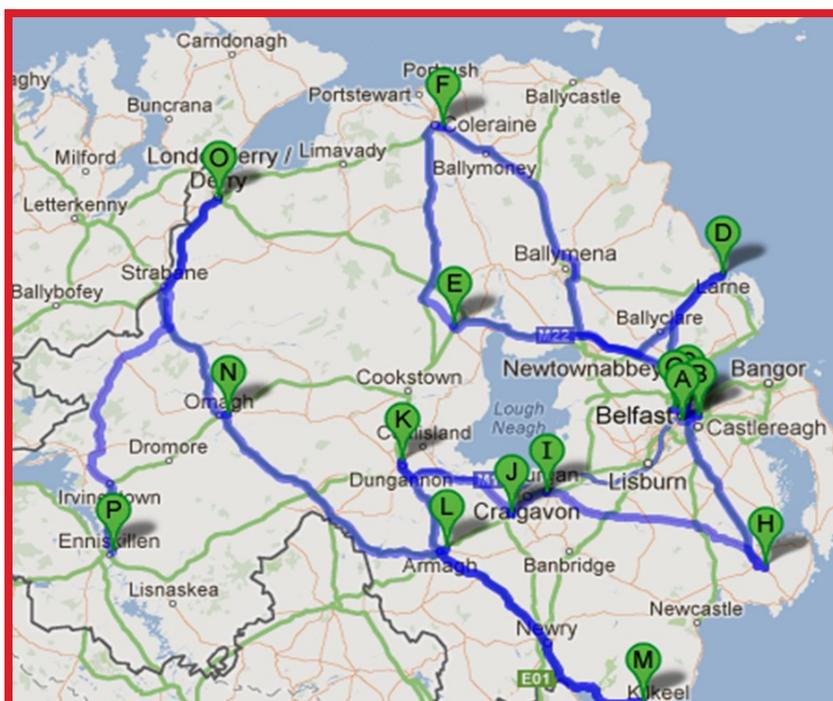
All men are cared for in accordance with agreed care pathways relevant to the detection and size of an AAA. When no AAA is detected in a man when he is screened, he is discharged from the programme and his GP is informed. When a small or medium AAA is detected the man is informed of the result and advised that he will be invited for regular surveillance scans. He will also receive a phone call from a vascular nurse specialist within two days, offering appropriate support and advice. Men who are found to have a large AAA are referred to a vascular surgeon for further investigation and management. **All GPs are informed in writing of the identification of an AAA in one of their patients and the planned management of this.**

Screening Office

In July 2012 the team responsible for the day to day management and administration of NI AAA Screening Programme moved into their new home in the King Edward Building at the Royal Victoria Hospital. More details on the team will be available in the next newsletter. Like the other NHS AAA screening programmes, the team uses a software package called the SMaRT system. This system contains patient contact information for all men eligible for screening and is updated daily, ultimately from the information held by GP surgeries on their patients. For the vast majority of these men, the information is completely accurate, enabling the screening programme to send invites to all eligible men. **However, in a very small number of cases, the information is not up to date. The NI AAA Screening Programme would therefore encourage GP Surgery staff to routinely check details such as Health + Care (H+C) numbers, names, addresses and date of births. Without these, the programme may not be able to contact all eligible men to offer them a screening appointment.**

Current Screening Venues

Ards Hospital
 Bradbury Centre, Belfast
 Causeway Hospital
 Downe Hospital
 Grove Health and Wellbeing Centre
 Hollywood Arches, Belfast
 Kilkeel Primary Care Centre
 Lurgan Day Hospital
 Mid-Ulster Hospital
 Moyle Hospital, Larne
 Mullinure Hospital, Armagh
 Portadown Health Centre
 South Tyrone Hospital, Dungannon
 South West Acute Hospital
 Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh
 Waterside Health Centre



We are currently seeking appropriate venues in the Ballymena and Newry areas to provide additional screening clinics.

Introduction of Screening Pathways

Any men requiring a re-screen, because the aorta cannot be visualised (usually due to transient bowel gas) are brought back fasting and scanned by a screening technician or the Lead Screening Sonographer, Mrs Deirdre Kearns, at a local screening venue.

Patient pathways for all patients have been approved and implemented in line with national guidance.

Deirdre Kearns, Lead Sonographer/Clinical Skills Trainer



KEY DATA

Total screening cohort (1/7/12 – 31/3/13 including 105 self-referrals to date) = **6,919**

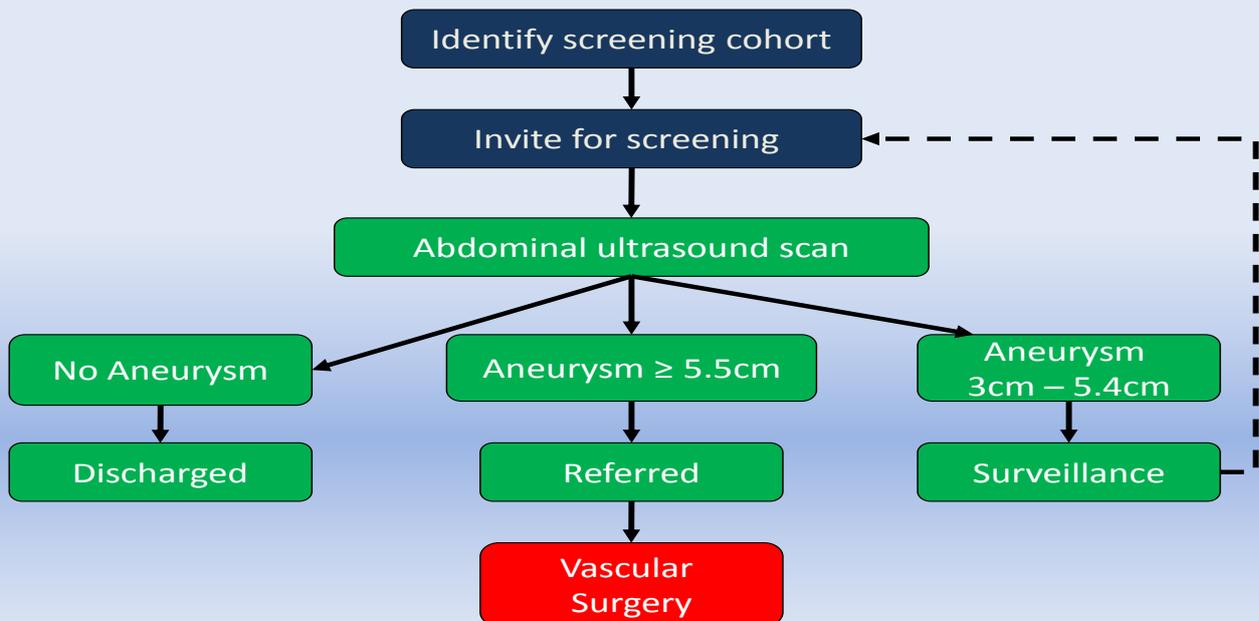
Total number of men offered a screening appointment to date = **2,562**

Total men screened to date = **1,937**

Total uptake to date = **76%**

Number of AAAs detected = **16**

Screening Pathways



English NHS AAA Screening Programme

Easy Read Leaflets

These aim to provide accessible information in a format that is particularly suitable for:

- People with learning disabilities
- People who find reading and writing hard
- People who do not speak English very well

The Easy Read versions of the English Programme's invitation, surveillance and referral leaflets can be found at:

<http://aaa.screening.nhs.uk/easyread>

GP AWARENESS SESSIONS

There are a number of up-coming dates when the NI AAA Screening Programme will present at GP Awareness Training Sessions.

Additional dates to be announced!

If you require any further information regarding these sessions please contact Helen McCann on 02890 311611.

DATE	VENUE	TIME
14 th November 2012	Enniskillen Killyhevlin Hotel	3.15 - 3.45pm
21 st November 2012	Omagh, Silverbirch Hotel	3.15 - 3.45pm
16 th January 2013	Ballymena	2.00 - 2.30pm
23 rd January 2013	Bangor, Signal Centre	2.00 - 2.30pm
28th February 2013	Newry, Ballybot House	3.30 - 4.00pm
28th March 2013	Newtownhamilton Health Centre	3.30 - 4.00pm
10 th April 2013	L'Derry	Time TBC

Key contacts : Belfast H&SC Trust

Central Screening Office (RVH):

02890 631828

Clinical Lead: Paul Blair, 02890 633972

Imaging Lead: Peter Ellis, 02890 636730

Programme Mgr: Diane Stewart, 02890 638256

Key contacts : PHA

Public Health Lead: Dr Adrian Mairs, 90 311611

QA & Commissioning

Support Mgr: Jacqueline McDevitt, 90 311611

Admin Asst: Helen McCann, 90 311611

How can I find out more? www.publichealth.hscni.net

Feedback and suggestions re: this Newsletter? Helen McCann, 02890 311611