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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Screening service one of the best attended in the country**

A Black Country screening programme which identifies a potentially fatal condition in men is one of the best attended in the country.

The Black Country Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) screening programme has some of the highest screening attendance in the country, according to latest figures from Public Health England.

The programme, run as part of the vascular service at Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust and covering Dudley, Wolverhampton and Walsall, offers a simple ultrasound test free of charge to all men in the year they turn 65. Men are provided with information explaining the implications of being screened for AAA and are encouraged to seriously consider the offer.

Screening helps to detect dangerous swellings of the aorta – the primary blood vessel connecting the heart to the rest of the body. It can lead to rupture, with around eight out of 10 people who suffer a ruptured AAA dying before they get to hospital or during emergency surgery.

The screening finds aneurysms early so they can be checked regularly or treated if needed. An AAA generally causes no symptoms.

The Black Country programme scores above average in the national programme's key performance indicators. In one measure – providing a conclusive follow-up scan to men diagnosed with a small AAA within six weeks of their initial scan or last surveillance scan – it was fourth best in the country.

The five-strong team work from the community, carrying out screening in health centres, GP surgeries and at Guest and Corbett Outpatient Centres. All surgery is carried out at Russells Hall Hospital, which is the vascular hub for the Black Country.

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