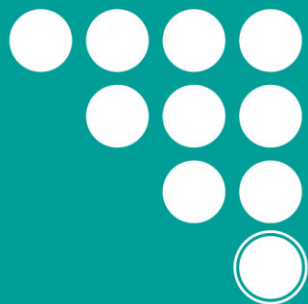




UK
National
Screening
Committee



What next? UK NSC evidence reviews, modelling, and future considerations

Carolina Martinelli, UK NSC Evidence Team

UK NSC Webinar
30 September 2026

The UK National Screening Committee



AN INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

It advises ministers in all four UK countries on all aspects of screening

Identification Regularly reviews the evidence for more than 100 conditions.

New screening topics proposed by stakeholders through an open call.

Assessment Examines the evidence for these proposals: for both new programmes and changes to existing programmes.

Consult & recommend Consults on findings, then makes recommendations to ministers.

Support delivery Supports implementation through NHS screening programmes.

INDEPENDENT EXPERTISE

Brings experience from public health, clinical evidence, ethics, modelling, delivery, testing, genetics, general practice, and patient and public voice.

SUPPORTED BY 3 EXPERT GROUPS

- Adult Reference Group
- Fetal, Maternal and Child Health Group
- Research and Methodology Group

The UK NSC



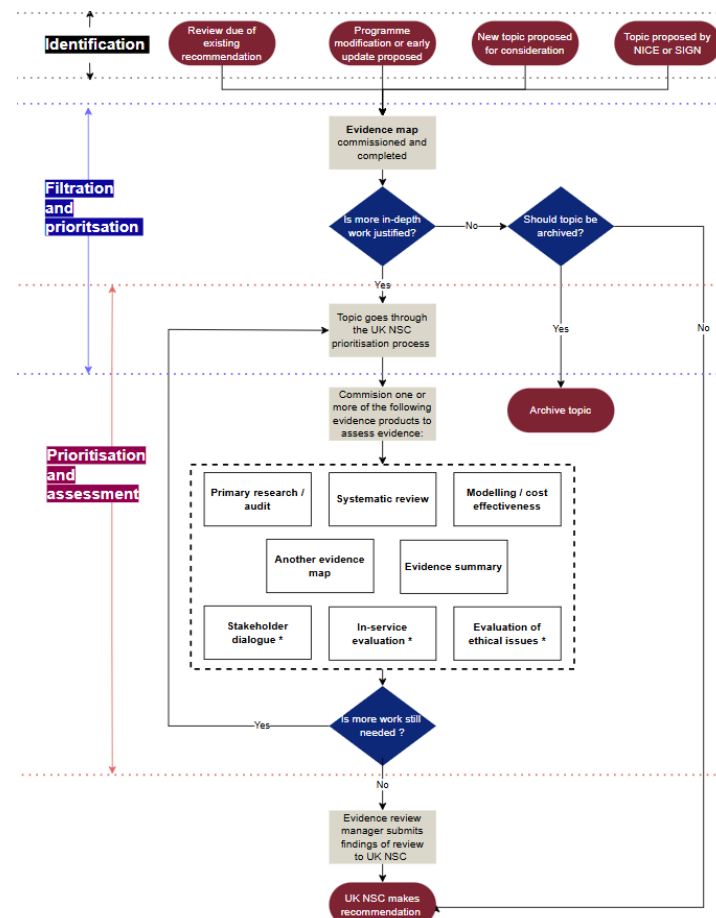
Mantra: (robust evidence that) Benefits must outweigh harms at reasonable cost

The UK NSC evidence review process

- The UK NSC uses research evidence, in-service evaluations and economic evaluations to assess the evidence for screening against a set of internationally recognised criteria covering the condition, the test, the intervention and implementation.
- Evidence maps, summaries and models are used to assess the evidence. The evidence review team presents these products and consultation outcomes to the UK NSC, which then makes its recommendations.

Ministers and NHS in 4 UK countries

If ministers agree on a recommendation, then the NHSs will assess feasibility, work planning, affordability, and more localised strategies for improving engagement with screening



Cervical screening: ongoing projects

VACCINATED POPULATIONS

University of Sydney modelling is testing the impact of vaccination on the cervical screening programme



Screening pathway	Ages, intervals and triage approaches
Health impact & value	Cancer incidence, mortality, elimination goals and value for money
Services & workforce	Number of HPV tests, colposcopy and treatment pathways

For individual and cohort-based approaches

- The right strategy depends on vaccine coverage and herd immunity
- People who are not vaccinated still need regular screening



Cervical screening: ongoing projects

HPV SELF-SAMPLING

The UK NSC is exploring an offer of HPV self-sampling for everyone eligible.

- **Communications research**
- **Modelling**
- **NHS In Service Evaluation (NIHR partnership)**

***Is it as good or better for everyone?
(Does it deliver more benefit than harm at a reasonable cost?)***

- 01** Is the self-sampling test accurate enough for people who regularly attend screening?
- 02** Will people complete follow-up?
- 03** Will everyone value the choice?



Review > [Int J Cancer](#). 2023 Jul 1;153(1):8-19. doi: 10.1002/ijc.34358. Epub 2022 Nov 23.

Widening the offer of human papillomavirus self-sampling to all women eligible for cervical screening: Make haste slowly

Matejka Rebolj ¹, Alexandra Sargent ², Sisse Helle Njor ³, Kate Cuschieri ⁵

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 36385698 PMCID: [PMC10952475](#) DOI: [10.1002/ijc.34358](#)



UK NSC multistakeholder engagement

ENGAGEMENT BEFORE RECOMMENDATION

Engagement happens before a recommendation including invitation through public consultation.

Behaviour and people

Charities, patient and public reps, behavioural scientists

- Impact on people invited for screening (and vaccination)

NHS and services

NHS teams across all four UK nations, laboratories, profession representatives

- Implications for the entire end-to-end pathway (cytology, colposcopy, services).

Other stakeholders

Eg. For the screening in vaccinated populations project

- UKHSA, JCVI: vaccine surveillance and monitoring



NB: this is not an exhaustive list



Future considerations

SUPPORTED BY EVIDENCE AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



POSSIBLE FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Who is screened, and how often

Change in age ranges and intervals for vaccinated people? Whilst considering unvaccinated populations

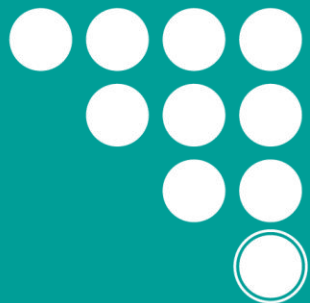
Where screening happens

Is a broader offer of self-sampling a good idea?

How results are triaged

Potential changes to the follow-up pathway, including the use of digital cytology and genotyping?

Any proposed change would be supported by evidence gathering and future UK NSC public consultation, as well as workforce considerations by the 4 NHSs



UK
National
Screening
Committee



Thank you

Carolina Martinelli, UK NSC Evidence Team

UK NSC Webinar
30 September 2026