



**NHS**

Stroke

Heart disease

Diabetes

Kidney disease

**Free NHS Health Check**

Helping you prevent heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease.

## Working together to improve your health

Everyone is at risk of developing heart disease, stroke, diabetes or kidney disease.

The good news is that these conditions can often be prevented – even if you have a history of them in your family. Have your free NHS Health Check and you will be better prepared for the future and be able to take steps to maintain or improve your health.

### Why do I need an NHS Health Check?

We know that your risk of developing heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and kidney disease increases with age. There are also certain things that will put you at even greater risk.

These are:

- being overweight
  - lack of exercise
  - smoking
  - high blood pressure
  - high cholesterol.
- Both men and women can develop these conditions, and having one could increase your risk of developing another in the future.
- In the brain a blocked artery or a bleed can cause a stroke.
  - In the heart a blocked artery can cause a heart attack or angina.
  - The kidneys can be damaged by high blood pressure or diabetes, causing chronic kidney disease and increasing your risk of having a heart attack.
  - Being overweight and a lack of exercise can lead to type 2 diabetes.
  - If unrecognised or unmanaged, type 2 diabetes could increase your risk of further health problems, including heart disease, kidney disease and stroke.

Even if you're feeling well, it's worth having your NHS Health Check now. We can then work with you to lower your chances of developing these health problems in the future.

### What happens at the check?

This check is to assess your risk of developing heart disease, type 2 diabetes, kidney disease and stroke.

- The check will take about 20–30 minutes.
- You'll be asked some simple questions. For example, about your family history and any medication you are currently taking.
- We'll record your height, weight, age, sex and ethnicity.
- We'll take your blood pressure.
- We'll do a simple blood test to check your cholesterol level.

### What happens after the check?

We will discuss how we can support you to reduce your risk and stay healthy.

- You'll be taken through your results and told what they mean. Some people may be asked to return at a later date for their results.
- You'll be given personalised advice on how to lower your risk and maintain a healthy lifestyle.
- Some people with raised blood pressure will have their kidneys checked through a blood test.
- Some people may need to have another blood test to check for type 2 diabetes. Your health professional will be able to tell you more.
- Treatment or medication may be prescribed to help you maintain your health.

## Questions you may have

**Why do I need this check if I feel fine?**

The NHS Health Check helps to identify potential risks early. By having this check and following the advice of your health professional, you improve your chances of living a healthier life.

**But don't these conditions run in the family?**

If you have a history of heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes or kidney disease in your family then you may be more at risk. Taking action now can help you to prevent the onset of these conditions.

**I know what I'm doing wrong, how can the doctor help me?**

If you would like help, we will work with you to find ways to reach your healthy weight, take more exercise or stop smoking. You may be prescribed medication to help lower your risk.

**If I am assessed as being at 'low risk', does this mean I won't develop these conditions?**

It is impossible to say that someone will or won't go on to develop one of these conditions. But taking action now can help you lower your potential risk.

**Will everyone have this check?**

This check is part of a new national scheme to help prevent the onset of these health problems. Everyone between the ages of 40 and 74 who has not been diagnosed with the conditions mentioned will be invited for a check once every five years. If you are outside the age range and concerned about your health, you should contact your GP.

For more information visit [www.nhs.uk/nhshealthcheck](http://www.nhs.uk/nhshealthcheck) or call the NHS Health Check helpline on 0845 850 9850

Call cost a maximum of 5p per minute from a BT landline. Mobile and other networks may vary. You may be charged a minimum cost per call.

Local NHS Health Check provider stamp here:

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