



## UK National Screening Committee

### Screening for Bladder Cancer

19 March 2015

#### Aim

1. This document provides background on the item addressing screening for bladder cancer.

#### Current policy

2. The UK National Screening Committee reviewed screening for bladder cancer in 2010, and concluded:

*Screening for bladder cancer should not be offered. This was reviewed as part of the Cancer Reform Strategy for England. Screening by urine dip stick testing for protein and blood is not recommended and should no longer take place.*

#### Current review

3. This and the previous review in 2010 were undertaken by Solutions for Public Health. As previously, the focus of this current review remains on identifying a reliable screening marker.
4. The conclusion of this current review upholds the recommendation to not screen the population for bladder cancer. The review did not find any studies which suggested that the reliability of haematuria as a screening marker has improved since the previous review. In addition no urine-based tumour markers, either alone or in combination have been shown to provide an alternative marker of sufficient reliability.



5. The reported positive predictive values in all the included studies suggest that a high proportion of people with screen positive results would not have the condition but may be exposed to unnecessary tests and procedures.

### **Consultation**

6. A three month consultation was hosted on the UK NSC website and additionally promoted through the PHE Screening Twitter platform. The following organisations were contacted directly: Action on Bladder Cancer, Bladder & Bowel Foundation, The British Association for Cancer Research, The British Association of Urological Surgeons, Fight Bladder Cancer, Cancer Research UK, Macmillan, NHS England, Rarer Cancers Forum, Royal College of Pathologists, Royal College of Physicians, Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, Royal College of Surgeons, Urostomy Association.
7. The NSC received one joint response in this consultation from the Royal College of Physicians, National Cancer Research Institute, and Association of Cancer Physicians. The response is supportive of the NSC recommendation not to screen.

*The consultation response can be found in Annex A.*

### **Recommendation**

8. The committee is asked to approve the following recommendation:

*“The UK NSC does not recommend a national screening programme for bladder cancer.*

*There are no reliable screening markers that meet the NSC criteria in offering a safe, precise and valid test.”*

ANNEX A

UK National Screening Committee  
Screening for Bladder Cancer - an evidence review

Consultation comments pro-forma

<b>Name:</b>	xxxx xxxx	<b>Email address:</b>	xxxx xxxx
<b>Organisation (if appropriate):</b>	Responding on behalf of the NCRI/RCP/ACP		
<b>Role:</b>	Registrar, RCP		
<p><b>Do you consent to your name being published on the UK NSC website alongside your response?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes <input type="checkbox"/>      No <input type="checkbox"/></p>			
<b>Section and / or page number</b>	<b>Text or issue to which comments relate</b>	<b>Comment</b>	
<p>The NCRI/RCP/ACP are grateful for the opportunity to respond and would like to make the following comments.</p> <p>Our experts support the conclusion that there is currently no place for population screening for bladder cancer - asymptomatic non-visible haematuria. However, there is a tension in that there is still guidance that unexplained non-visible haematuria in &gt;50yrs group should be referred under the 2 week rule - which we would imagine is case-finding.</p>			