

Spotting cancer early saves lives



EasyRead version

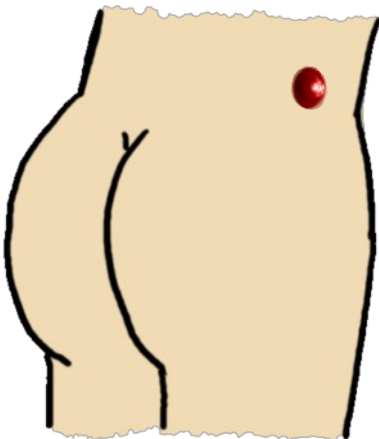
Together we are
beating cancer



This leaflet tells you about some of the signs of cancer and what to look out for.



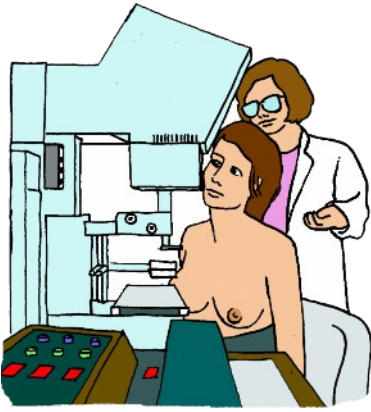
It also gives tips on talking to your doctor.



If you spot something unusual with your body it is probably nothing serious.



But if it is cancer, spotting it early means you are much more likely to get better.



Screening is when you have an X-ray or other tests to check for cancer.



Most people who get cancer are aged over 50 but you can get it at any age.



This leaflet is an EasyRead version of another leaflet about spotting cancer early.



You might like to have someone with you to support you when you look at this leaflet.

Know your body



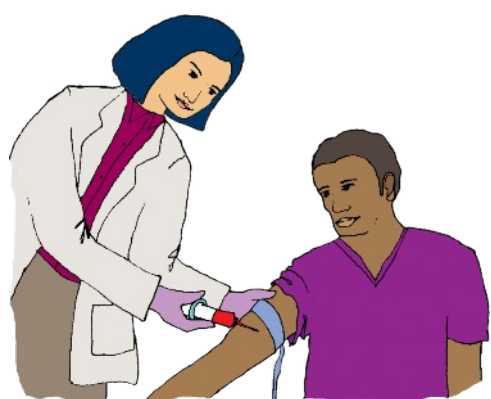
Knowing your body means getting to know what is normal for you.



This will help you spot any changes to how your body looks and feels and how you feel in yourself.



You should talk to your doctor if you spot anything new and not normal for you or something that does not go away.



Remember these signs are usually not cancer but you should always ask your doctor about them.

Here are some examples of changes.
But if your change is not on the list
you should still ask your doctor
about it.



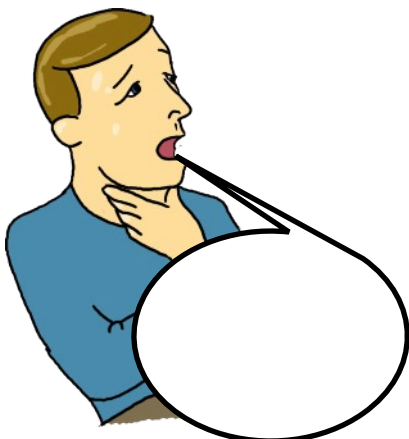
- being out of breath



- being very sweaty at night



- feeling very tired all the time
(fatigue)



- a croaky voice that does not go
away



- heartburn or indigestion that does not go away



- ulcers in your mouth or on your tongue that you have had for more than 3 weeks



- bloating or feeling swollen in your tummy for a long time



- problems swallowing



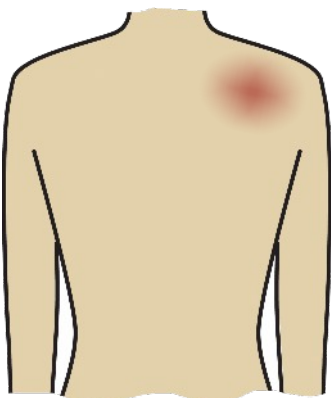
- any changes when you go to the toilet, such as blood in poo or pee, problems peeing, constipation, looser poo or pooing more often



- not feeling hungry



- losing weight for no reason



- a new mole on your skin, or changes to a mole. Or changes on your skin, including a sore that will not heal



- a cough that does not go away



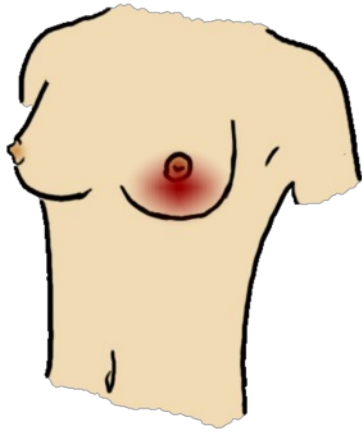
- coughing up blood



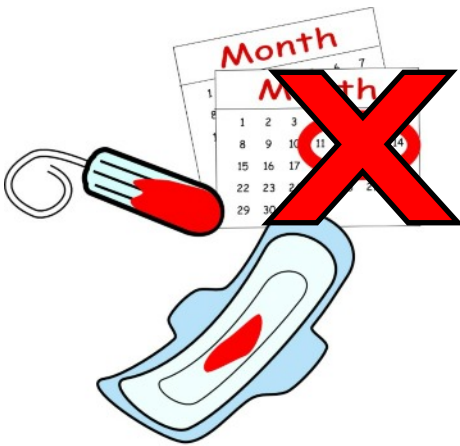
- an ache or pain that you cannot explain



- an unusual lump or swelling anywhere



- changes in the size, shape or feel of your chest, breast or nipple



- bleeding from your vagina that is not a period.

Talk to your doctor



If you are worried something is wrong you should talk to your doctor.



Here are some ideas to help you:

- before you talk to the doctor, think about what you want to say and ask. Think about how to describe any changes and how long you've had them for



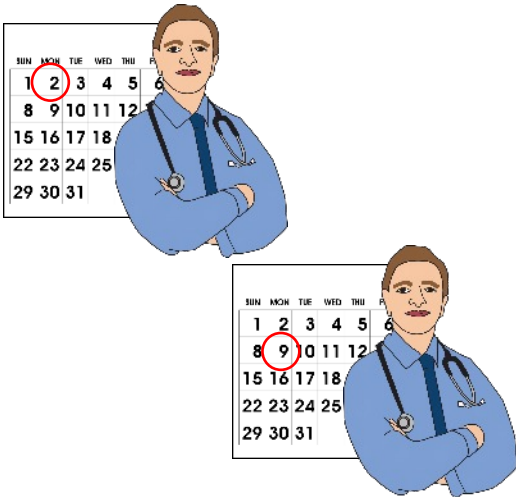
- you can have someone help you with this or to talk to the doctor with you



- tell the doctor about everything that does not feel normal for you



- tell them even if it does not seem important or is a bit embarrassing

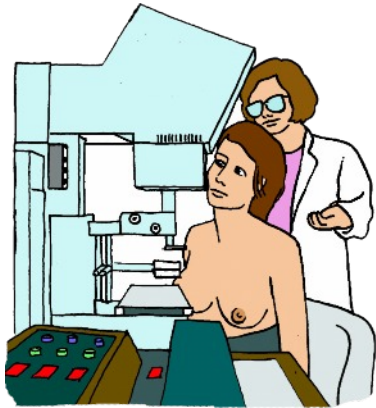


- if you talk to the doctor once but the problem does not go away, talk to them again



- you are not wasting the doctor's time. They want to hear from you if something is wrong.

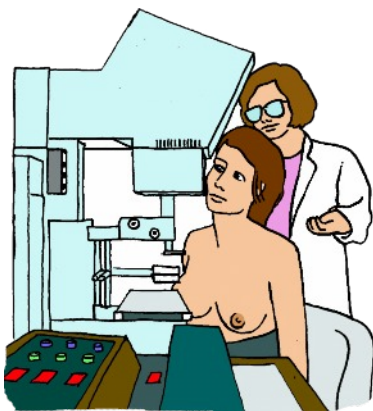
Keep a look out for your screening invitation



Screening is a test, like an X-ray, which checks for cancer. It is free.

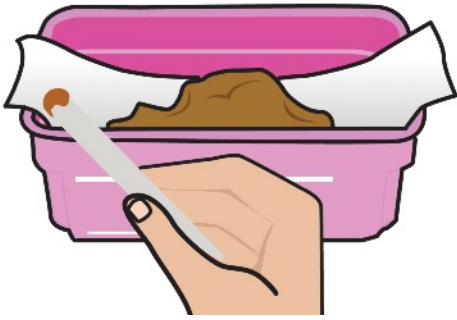


It is for people who do not have any signs of cancer, to try to spot it early.



There are screening checks for 4 types of cancer:

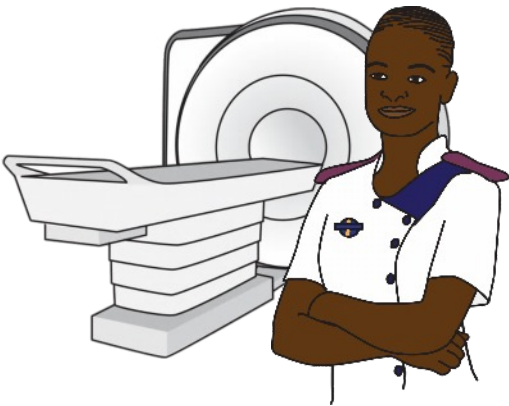
- breast



- bowel



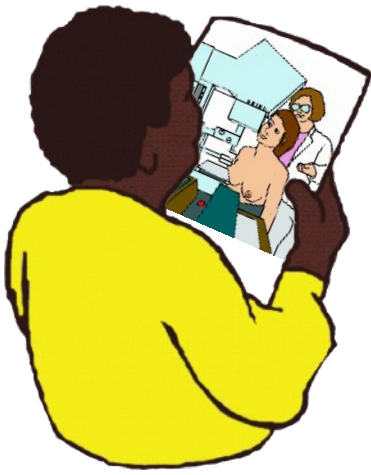
- cervical (inside your vagina near your womb)



- lung (a new type of screening check).



You need to be registered with a doctor to be invited for screening.



It is up to you if you want to be screened. You will get information with your invitation to help you decide if you want to be screened.



You will be asked if you want to go for different screening tests depending on your age and sex.



You can find out more about screening at:
www.cruk.org/screening



Even if you have been screened, you should still tell your doctor if you notice something which is not normal for you.

How to find out more



You can find out more about spotting cancer early and screening on our website at:
www.cruk.org/spotcancerearly



Or you can speak to our cancer nurses for free on **0808 800 4040** Monday to Friday.



We hope you have found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think about this leaflet you can email:
publications@cancer.org.uk

Credits



This paper has been designed and produced for BDS Communications. It includes material from the Inspired Easy Read Collection and cannot be used anywhere else without written permission from Inspired Services Publishing Ltd. Ref ISL279 24. March 2025.

www.inspiredservices.org.uk



Together we are
beating cancer



© Cancer Research UK 2025

Ref: EASYREAD2_2025 March 2025. Due for review by March 2028. Registered Charity in England and Wales (1089464), Scotland (SC041666), the Isle of Man (1103) and Jersey (247).