

Signs and symptoms

Cancer is a **condition where cells in the body grow in an uncontrolled way**. Unlike normal cells, which stop dividing when the body no longer needs them, cancer cells continue multiplying, eventually forming a tumour.

Cancer can affect any part of your body, including your organs, blood, bone marrow and immune system. There are more than 200 different types of cancer. 1 in 2 people in the UK will get cancer.

These are some of the signs and symptoms that could be a sign of cancer.

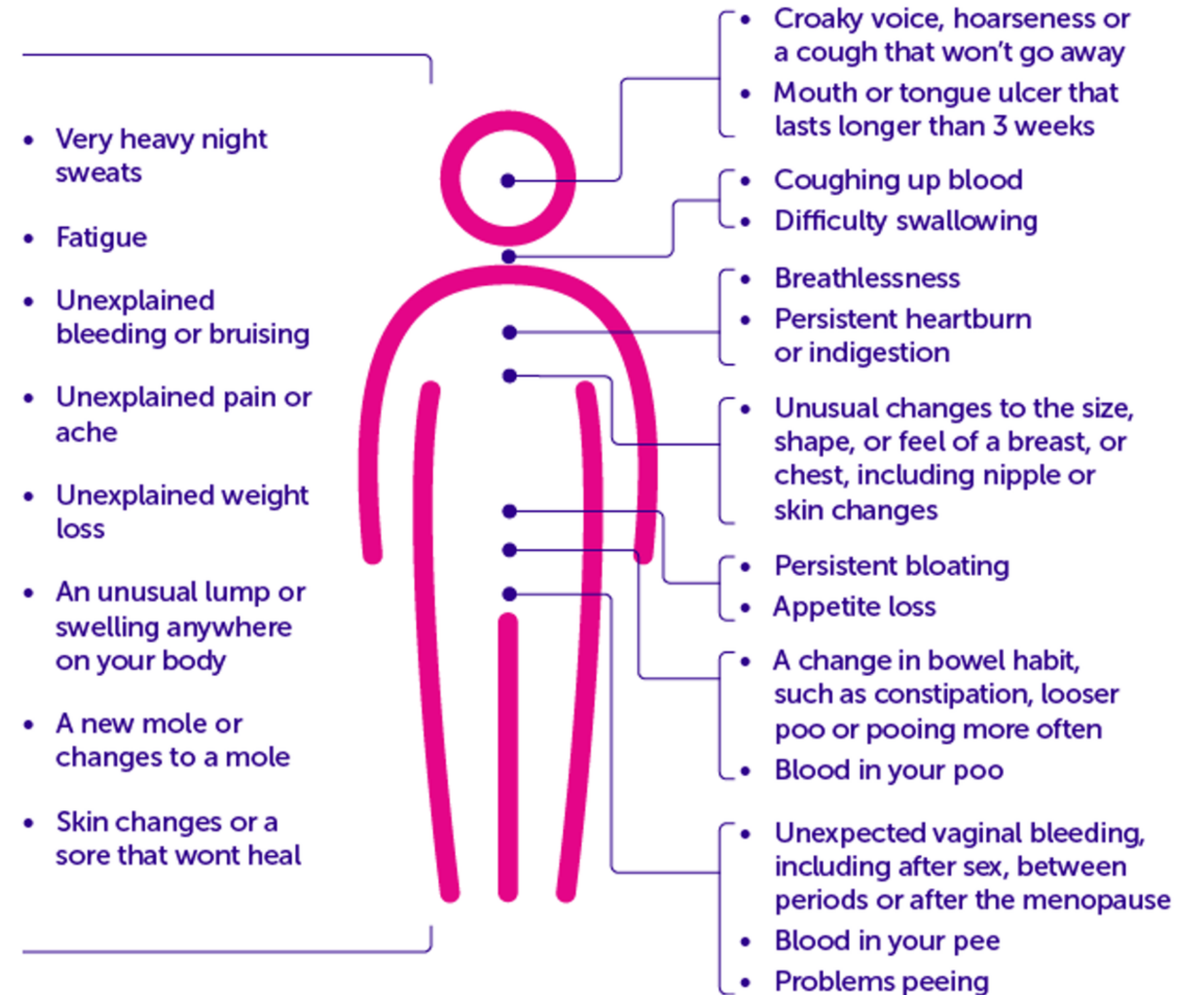
Many of these signs and symptoms are more often caused by something less serious than cancer - but if it is cancer, spotting it early can make a real difference. The earlier it's picked up there is a better chance of successful treatment.

You should always make an appointment with your GP practice if you notice a change that isn't normal for you.

Remember:

- You won't be wasting your doctor's time
- Try not to be embarrassed
- What you tell your GP is confidential
- Doctors are used to discussing intimate problems and will try to put you at ease

Early diagnosis saves lives.



Cancer screening

What is cancer screening?

Cancer screening is for people who do not have symptoms. Screening means testing people for early signs of cancer, or for early changes that could develop into cancer if left untreated.

England has 3 national cancer screening programmes:

- Bowel cancer screening
- Breast cancer screening
- Cervical screening

Lung cancer screening is not yet a national screening programme but is available across north west and south west London. It is offered to people aged 55-74 with any history of smoking who are registered with a participating GP practice. There is currently no screening programme for prostate cancer.

What is the cancer screening process?

Eligible people will automatically be invited for screening if they are registered with a GP practice.

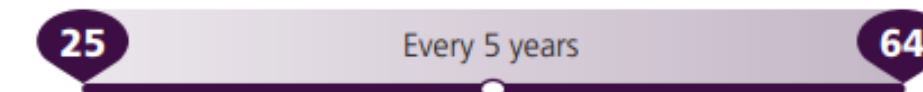
If you are eligible, you will get a letter inviting you to take part in screening with information about the test and how to take part.

When invited for screening, please take up the offer.

Remember, cancer screening is for people who do not have symptoms. If you have symptoms or have noticed anything that is not normal for you, you should make an appointment with your GP practice to discuss your concerns.

Cervical screening

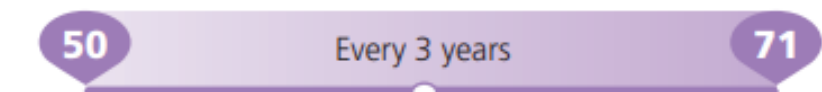
- **Who:** All women and people with a cervix
- **Age:** 25-64
- **How:** Receive invitation through the NHS App, by text or by letter



From 1 July 2025, those eligible will be invited for screening every 5 years, unless previous history suggests they should be screened more regularly.

Breast screening

- **Who:** All women
- **Age:** 50-71
- **How:** Receive invitation letter



Bowel screening

- **Who:** Everyone
- **Age:** 50-74
- **How:** Receive bowel screening test in post



Visit:

<https://www.standuptocancer.org.uk/screening-checker>

or scan the QR code to use Stand Up To Cancer's Screening Checker

