Request for Information

*Instructions and Guidance*

**NHS England Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening Programme Patient Management System and support services**

**C233307**

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Dear Provider(s)

This Request for Information (RFI) process is being undertaken to engage with the market to inform the further development of draft proposals for an NHS England Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening Programme Patient Management System and support services

The objective of the RFI is to:

* Understand market Capability and Capacity to deliver the service.
* Understand the preferred service model for delivering the service.
* Understand if the proposed service model is viable.
* Understand the preferred / most viable contract length.
* Understand if there are any financial risks with the delivery of the service.
* Understand the mobilisation requirements of the service.
* Understand any barriers to bidding and whole service risk

Whereas this RFI has been prepared in good faith by NHS England it should not be assumed that the information in this RFI has been verified for absolute accuracy and completeness by NHS England and/or any advisor(s) to NHS England.

Expressions of interest to meet with the contracting authority to further explore responses to the Request for Information is not required at this stage, however maybe required at a later stage. Please indicate on Question 23 of Appendix A if you would be happy to participate in the supplier meetings should the contracting authority wish to do so. Supplier meetings will be allocated on a first come first served basis via Atamis. All written responses will be considered regardless of whether interested parties wish to participate or are invited to participate in meetings.

NHS England and their respective officers, directors, employees, agents, and affiliates do not make and will not make at any time, in connection with this service, any representation or warranty, express or implied as to the accuracy or completeness of this RFI or any such summaries.

In providing this RFI, the NHS England does not undertake any obligation to provide the recipient with access to any additional information or to update the RFI or correct any inaccuracies in the RFI, which become known to it. Nothing in the RFI or accompanying documentation should be relied upon as a promise or a representation as to the NHS England’s ultimate decisions in relation to the next stage, which will depend, at least in part, on the outcome of the discussions during this RFI process.

NHS England will not reimburse any expenses incurred by interested parties in preparing their responses to this RFI including attendance at any meetings. NHS England reserves the right to discontinue the process at any time and will not accept any liability towards interested parties should it be required to do so.

Completed RFI’s must be submitted by 13:00 on Friday 02 February 2024.

Any submissions received after this specified deadline may not be considered in the market engagement process undertaken through the RFI process.

Yours faithfully

**Kaysha Maynard**

**Procurement Manager**

**Commercial Directorate**

**NHS England**

1 **THE RFI PROCESS**

1.1 The RFI process is being undertaken to allow the early market testing for an NHS England Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening Programme Patient Management System and support services

1.2 The documentation is available to all interested parties who have registered an interest in the service via the e-Tendering portal following the advertisement of a Prior Information Notice/RFI on Contracts Finder and Find a Tender (FTS).

1.3 Accompanying this document, the following attachments are available to interested parties to further inform the submission of the respective RFI: -

* Appendix A - RFI Response Document (Please note that this document needs to be completed and returned via the Atamis system).
* Appendix B – Service background information document.

1.4 These documents are provided to assist potential providers in the completion of the RFI submission, however, please note that this information is indicative only and may not reflect the data used in any forthcoming procurement process if applicable. Interested parties are required to complete Appendix A – RFI Response Document and return via Atamis.

1.5 Expressions of interest to meet with the contracting authority to further explore responses to the Request for Information is not required at this stage, however may be required at later stages. Please indicate on Question 23 of Appendix A if you would be happy to participate in the supplier meetings should the contracting authority wish to do so. Supplier meetings will be allocated on a first come first served basis via Atamis. All written responses will be considered regardless of whether interested parties wish to participate or are invited to participate in meetings.

 **2 SCOPE OF THE SERVICE**

2.1 The service requirements are outlined in Appendix B – Background Information. Please note that this is a summary of the current service model and proposed model and is subject to change based on feedback including that from the RFI process.

## 3 VISION

3.1 The Vaccination and Screening directorate (V&S) forms part of NHS England and exists to protect and improve the nation’s health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. This is achieved through world-leading science, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships, and the delivery of specialist public health services.

1. **The AAA Screening Programme**

The NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening Programme was established in 2009 with the aim of the AAA screening programme to reduce AAA related mortality by providing a systematic population-based screening programme for the male population during their 65th year, and screening on request for men over 65.

Screening for AAA typically involves an ultrasound examination to measure the maximum aortic diameter on apparently well men to detect those with an unrecognised aortic aneurysm, with referral to assessment and treatment by a vascular specialist for those who meet specified criteria.

An aortic aneurysm is defined as an aortic diameter of 3.0cm or greater in the maximum anterior-posterior measurement.  There is no aneurysm present if the aortic diameter is less than 3.0cm.

38 local AAA screening services, each associated with a vascular network, provide patient appointment scheduling, screening by ultrasound, and, where appropriate, surveillance of their AAA or onward referral to hospital vascular surgery services.

The model for the AAA Screening service is for ultrasound scanning to be undertaken within community healthcare facilities (community clinics, community hospitals, mobile units and primary care facilities).

To support the AAA Screening Programme, a national information management system was established in 2009. The current contract is due to end in March 2025.

The current model is a web-based system, part of the software as service concept, that supports local Screening services via six main components:

1. Identification of Screening cohort via Subject Population Index (SSPI) - The purpose of this is to identify people eligible for screening, and to provide and maintain demographic data for all identified screening subjects. This provides AAA Screening with the eligible cohort and provides demographic updates from GPs through NHS England Live services. The cohort is supplied to each provider approximately five months prior to the start of the screening year to allow for clinical planning.
2. Management of administration, screening and referral - This supports the core functionality for the screening programme, as described in the background above:
	1. the collation of a screening cohort for each local screening programme
	2. administration of screening subject call and recall,
	3. management of the surveillance programme
	4. recording of the screening process and associated outcomes,
	5. management of referrals for those screened positive
	6. collation of audit and performance management data for the programme.
	7. Where men have asked to be permanently removed from the NHS AAA Screening Programme; recording the reason and removing contact details.
3. The data for the AAA Screening programme stored in a single national database, and each Local screening unit only has access to the patients for whom they are responsible. The boundaries of local screening programmes are defined by the list of GP practices to which they are responsible for offering screening.
4. Recording of AAA surgery and outcomes - measuring the effectiveness of the screening programme by collating data on AAA Screening outcomes (whether following a positive screen or not) and linking findings with the National Vascular Registry (NVR) to support the National Vascular Network.
5. Details of all AAA surgery performed by the vascular unit should be entered on to the NVR by the vascular surgeon using the man’s NHS number and made available to the screening office though the IT systems (the NHS number must be entered to allow the records to be linked automatically).
6. Managed service desk support services

# 4 SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

4.1 This document is **not** an Invitation to Tender (ITT), nor does it form any part of a procurement process. It is a Request for Information (RFI) based on the draft service requirements provided with this document.

4.2 The RFI Response Document should be submitted no later than 13:00 on Friday 02 February 2024.

4.3 Interested parties’ responses do not constitute firm offers capable of acceptance. Instead, their responses will be construed as indicative only.

4.4 Unless otherwise agreed, NHS England shall not be obliged to return any materials submitted by interested parties before, during or after any procurement process.

4.5 Any information provided as part of this RFI may be used by the NHS England to inform future market analysis activity.

4.6 NHS England recognises that with a new service model there is a clear need to test with interested parties that outline requirements are not deficient to any material degree and that the content as to outcomes, as designated, are deliverable and affordable. To understand and appreciate these issues, it is essential that NHS England seek a fuller understanding from interested parties to enable requirements to be fully reflective of issues and concerns, which are relevant, and to adopt these, where appropriate in the final service model.

4.7 In addition, there is an option to allow interested parties to submit their individual caveats in relation to any section of the proposed service model where they may identify outcomes that they may not be able to provide and/or offer alternative suggestions. It should be noted by interested parties that in making these suggestions, the areas where this information may arise should be substantive in the context of delivering service model outcomes.