

Wilson's Criteria for health screening

- * The condition should be an important health problem
- * The natural history of the condition should be understood
- * There should be a recognisable latent or early symptomatic stage
- * There should be a test that is easy to perform and interpret, acceptable, accurate, reliable, sensitive and specific
- * There should be an accepted treatment recognised for the disease
- * Treatment should be more effective if started early
- * There should be a policy on who should be treated
- * Diagnosis and treatment should be cost-effective
- * Case-finding should be a continuous process.

Hewitt's Criteria for health screening

- * It should have been thought up spontaneously and without any research.
- * It should sound good on the lunchtime news.
- * Cost and practical implications should not be thought through and it need not have any relevance to real life.
- * It should target middle class, female voters (sorry, patients).
- * The BMA should offer a meaningless, neutral, response in order not to upset any gongs.
- * It should help the Secretary of State for Health get into a new and better post as soon as possible.