

Wilson's criteria for 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

WHO criteria for a good screening test:

- the condition screened for should be an important one
- there should be an acceptable treatment for patients with the disease
- the facilities for diagnosis and treatment should be available
- there should be a recognised latent or early symptomatic stage
- there should be a suitable test or examination which has few false positives - specificity - and few false negatives - sensitivity
- the test or examination should be acceptable to the population
- the cost, including diagnosis and subsequent treatment, should be economically balanced in relation to expenditure on medical care as a whole