

A guide to the Breast Assessment Clinic

Breast Screening Service

Information for patients and carers

You have been invited back to the Breast Assessment Clinic because we need to take a closer look at an area we have seen on your mammogram (breast X-ray).

This is the second part of the screening process. It does not necessarily mean there is anything wrong. Please remember, most women who are called back have a normal result.

Our assessment clinics are held at your nearest assessment centre, as identified on your invitation letter.

How common is this?

- About **5 out of every 100 women** who have screening will be invited for an additional assessment.
- 4 out of 5 of these women will have a normal result.

Before your appointment

- **Do not** use talcum powder, perfume, lotion or spray deodorant under your arms or on your chest. These may affect the X-ray image.
- You can use roll-on or solid deodorant.

If you would like more information, speak to a breast care nurse:

- Halton: 01928 753550 / 01928 753030 (answering machine available to leave a message)
- St Helens: 01744 646053 (answering machine available to leave a message)

A breast care nurse is a senior nurse who provides advice and support during diagnosis and treatment.

On the day

- Check in with the receptionist and wait in the waiting room.
- You will usually meet a breast care nurse who will explain what will happen.
- Expect to be in the clinic for two to four hours. You may wish to bring a friend or relative.

Consent

You will be asked if you agree to any procedure and understand what it involves.

You can withdraw consent at any time.

Possible tests

- **Breast examination:** A doctor or practitioner will talk to you and examine your breasts.
- **Mammogram:** Further X-rays to look closely at a part of the breast.
- **Ultrasound:** Uses sound waves to show breast tissue. No X-rays involved.
- **Needle biopsy:** A small sample of tissue taken under local anaesthetic.

Please ask if there is anything that you do not understand or would like to discuss further.

When will I get the results?

- Most women receive their results at the clinic.
- If normal, you return to routine screening every 3 years (up to age 71).
- If you have a biopsy, results are ready in 7 to 14 days.

What if I cannot make the Breast Assessment clinic appointment?

Contact the breast screening secretaries (Monday to Friday, between 8:30am and 4:30pm) on the number below:

- 01925 275500, please ask to be put through to the medical secretary on either extension 5427 (Warrington / Halton) or 5425 (St Helens).

Further information

Visit the website: www.whstkbss.nhs.uk