

Assessment Clinic Information Leaflet

We understand that you may be feeling worried about being asked to attend the breast screening assessment clinic. We hope you will find the following information helpful.

For most women called back for further investigations, nothing of concern will be found.

Why have I been called back?

You have been called back to the assessment clinic because your breast imaging scans did not give us enough information about a particular part of your breast. We therefore need to give you a more detailed examination before we can provide you with a result.

How many women are called back?

The breast imaging scans are very sensitive. Because of this around 1 out of every 10 women will be asked to come back to our clinic for further tests. Most women who are called back will not have breast cancer.

Can I get more information by speaking to someone before I come to the clinic?

You may find it helpful to phone and ask to speak with one of our breast care nurses on telephone number 028 94 424047 or 028 9442 4874.

What will happen at the clinic?

On arrival you will meet a breast care nurse who will explain what will happen during the clinic. She will ask you about your general health and take details of any medicines that you take. It will be helpful if you can bring a list of your medicines with you. Eat and drink normally on the day and remember to take your regular medication.

You can expect to have some or all of the following during your visit:

Breast x-rays (mammograms)

Further x-rays, taken in order to show part of your breast in more detail.

Breast examination

A doctor, or a specialist radiographer, will ask you questions about any previous breast problems. She/he will show you your x-rays and then

examine your breasts.

Breast ultrasound

An ultrasound scan uses sound waves to provide a picture of the breast tissue. It is painless and is usually done at the same time as your breast examination.

Breast needle biopsy

It may be necessary for some women to have a small sample of tissue, or cells, taken from the breast using a biopsy needle. Local anaesthetic is normally used to numb the area first. The result of the biopsy is usually available 7 to 10 days later. You will be given an appointment to return for your result.

How long will I be at the clinic?

You may be at the clinic for up to 5 hours. Tea, coffee, and water are available but you may want to bring a snack. You are welcome to bring a friend or relative to sit with you while you wait.

When will I get my results?

Before you leave the clinic, the doctor, specialist radiographer, or breast care nurse will talk to you about your results. If you have a needle biopsy taken, you will be given an appointment to return in seven to ten days for your final result.

Please remember that the majority of women who come back to the recall assessment clinic are found to have a normal result.

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