



# Breast Screening

**What if I have  
breast implants?**

*Breast screening, using a special x-ray known as a mammogram, can detect breast cancer at an early stage. This can reduce the risk of dying from breast cancer.*



## **Breast implants**

A standard mammogram may be less effective if you have a breast implant. This is because implants are dense and can hide part of the breast tissue, as well as change the breast structure.

## **Screening process**

Rather than attend the mobile unit for screening, it is recommended that women with implants attend their local screening centre where the x-rays can be processed and checked as soon as they are taken.

It is important to tell the radiographer if you have an implant, and the type of implant used, before you are screened. This is because the screening technique can be adapted to show the greatest amount of breast tissue possible.

The screening procedure involves moderate pressure on the breast; however, it is very unlikely to harm your implants.

## **Concerned about your implants?**

Screening for cancer is not a check on your implants. If you have any fears about the state of your implants, you should tell the radiographer.

If you have any other questions about your implants, please contact your GP.

## Screening centres

### **Belfast Health and Social Care Trust**

(also covering South Eastern HSC Trust)

The Screening Centre

12-22 Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8BS

Tel: 028 9033 3700

### **Northern Health and Social Care Trust**

Northern Area Breast Screening and

Assessment Unit

Level A, Antrim Area Hospital

45 Bush Road, Antrim BT41 2RL

Tel: 028 9442 4425

### **Southern Health and Social Care Trust**

The Breast Screening Unit

Lurgan Hospital

Sloan Street, Lurgan BT66 8NX

Tel: 028 3834 7083

### **Western Health and Social Care Trust**

The Breast Screening Unit

Ground Floor, The Nurses' Home

Altnagelvin Area Hospital

Glenshane Road, Londonderry BT47 6SB

Tel: 028 7161 1443

For further information on breast screening in Northern Ireland or for this leaflet in other languages or alternative formats, visit **[www.cancerscreening.hscni.net](http://www.cancerscreening.hscni.net)** or contact your local screening centre.



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