

Information for women who were either unable to have or unable to complete breast screening x-rays (mammograms)



Breast > Screening

Breast screening involves having two x-rays (mammograms) taken of each breast. At your visit to the breast screening unit you were either unable to have or unable to complete these x-rays.

You will be invited for screening again in three years if you are still within the invitation age range.

You were unable to complete your breast screening x-rays (mammograms)

Sometimes it is difficult to take all the x-rays needed for screening. Sometimes all four x-rays can be taken, but they will not show the whole breast.

There are different reasons why you may not have been able to have complete mammography on one or both breasts:

You needed to ask the radiographer to stop

Sometimes women find it uncomfortable or painful to have the x-rays taken, and ask to stop. If this has happened for you, then your screening results will be for whatever x-rays were able to be taken.

You are welcome to make another appointment to try and complete your examination or try again to have a full set of x-rays taken.

You have limited movement

If you have limited movement we may not have been able to help you get into the best position for mammography. This can mean that only part of your breast tissue was x-rayed. Your screening result will only be for the areas of breast tissue that can be seen on the mammogram.

If your movement improves in the future, please contact the screening unit. We can check your x-rays to see if repeating them would be helpful.

You have a pacemaker or medical device

Depending on the position of the pacemaker or medical device, it may be difficult to x-ray the entire breast and sometimes only a partial mammogram is possible. Taking the x-rays will involve some pressure on the device, but we keep this to a minimum. Your screening results will only be for the areas of breast tissue we could see on the mammogram.

You were unable to have breast screening x-rays (mammograms)

Sometimes it is not possible to take the screening mammograms at all. This may be because:

- we could not position you to take good enough mammograms to justify the x-ray exposure;
- you needed to ask the radiographer to stop;
- you changed your mind and decided not to be screened.

If you did not have mammography, then we will not send you a screening results letter. We will invite you for screening again in three years' time if you are still within the invitation age range.

If you want to try again to be screened before your next invitation in three years, simply contact your local screening unit.

Further information

If you would like to talk about your screening appointment, or make another appointment, please contact your local breast screening unit. (Contact details below)

For more information about breast screening, go to www.nidirect.gov.uk/breast-screening

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

Email: breastscreeninglhst@belfasttrust.hscni.net

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

Email: breast.screening@northerntrust.hscni.net

Southern Health and Social Care Trust

The Breast Screening Unit
Firbank House
Craigavon Area Hospital
Lurgan Road,
Portadown
BT63 5QQ

Tel: 028 3756 0820

Email: breast.screening@southerntrust.hscni.net

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

Email: altnagelvin.breastscreening@westerntrust.hscni.net

Be breast aware

Breast screening is not able to find every case of breast cancer. Breast cancer can develop in between screening appointments. It is important that you continue to be breast aware.

Being breast aware means becoming familiar with your breasts, and learning what is normal for you. Some women for example, find their breasts feel tender or lumpy at certain times of the month.

If you notice any unusual changes, you should see your GP as soon as possible.

To find out more about breast awareness, see the leaflet *Breast awareness: Looking out for changes*.

The breast awareness 5 point code:

1. Know what is normal for you
2. Know what changes to look and feel for
3. Look and feel
4. Report any changes to your GP immediately
5. Attend for breast screening from the age of 50

© Crown Copyright 2020. This information was originally developed by Public Health England Screening (<https://www.gov.uk/topic/population-screening-programmes>) and is used under the Open Government Licence v3.0



Public Health Agency

12–22 Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8BS.

Tel: 0300 555 0114 (local rate). www.publichealth.hscni.net

<http://pha.site/breastscreening-info>

www.nidirect.gov.uk/breast-screening

www.becancerawareni.info/breast-cancer

Find us on:

