

BSUappointments@wwl.nhs.uk

0300 707 5899

Breast Screening

Frequently Ask Questions

Do I need a referral from my GP to be screened?

No, if you are registered with a GP and are aged between 50-70yrs you will be called automatically when they are next in your area.

I have lived away for 6 months and missed the mobile unit. Can I still be screened?

Yes, just contact the breast screening team when you return home.

Can I request breast screening when I am 50?

No, if you are registered with a GP, you will automatically be sent an invitation when the breast screening team are in your area. This will be before your 53rd Birthday.

Can I be screened more regularly?

The National Breast Screening Programme screens all women on a three-year cycle. If you have any symptoms or think you have a breast problem, see your GP for advice.

My family has a history of breast cancer, I think I need screening more often.

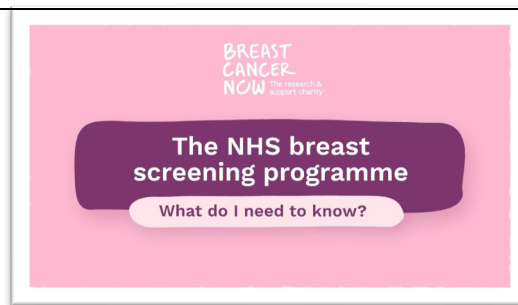
If you are worried about your risk of developing breast cancer your GP will be able to offer more information about the family history Genetics Service.

I am the same age as my friend, and she has received her invitation for breast screening. Why haven't I had mine?

Some women will be called when they are 50 but others will not receive their invitation until they are 52 depending on where they live. Everyone will have their invitation by their 53rd birthday.

I have just moved into the area; how do I arrange screening?

Once you have registered with a GP, the screening team will be notified and will send you an invitation for breast screening when they next screen that practice.



I am worried about my breasts; can I be screened?

If you have any symptoms or think you may have a breast problem, please see your GP for advice.

Can I choose where I am screened?

The breast screening time will try and give you as much choice as they can, depending on where their mobile units are situated. Mobile units are sited at locations in the areas being screened.

Will the Mammographer be female?

All the Mammographers are female. It is very important that you feel comfortable throughout your screening appointment. The team will do everything to make sure your privacy and dignity is maintained and respected during your visit.

I don't have any lumps; do I still need to attend?

Being breast aware and looking for changes to your breast is a key part of detecting breast cancer early. However, mammograms can find small tumours that are in early stages of breast cancer before you can feel them, meaning treatment can start far sooner.

I'm afraid of what they might find.

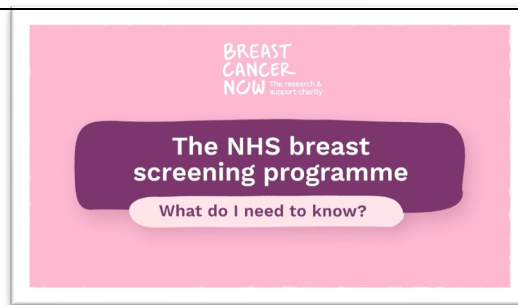
Don't jump to conclusions. Most women get the all clear after breast screening. One in 20 will be called back for further tests but being called back doesn't mean you have cancer.

I can't speak English; do you have information in other languages?

There are leaflets in other languages explaining the process. Please contact the breast unit to obtain this information or access the Gov.uk website and search for "Breast screening: helping you decide" where you may download a copy in a language of your choice.

I have a learning disability; will I receive more information and support?

All ladies with a learning disability are sent an appointment in the post with double the time slot of other ladies to ensure that we have more time to explain how things will work when you get here, and you are welcome to bring a carer with you. The letters are



sent in “Easy read” format along with a leaflet explaining what happens at the appointment.

I’m too busy to attend for a mammogram

Please make the time to attend for your breast screening appointment. The whole appointment lasts 15-20 minutes and the mammogram itself takes approximately 5 minutes. If the appointment time you have made is inconvenient, please phone call the breast unit and email to arrange a more suitable time.

Trans Man registered with a GP as a female.

If you are a trans man aged 50-70 years who is registered with a GP as female, you will be routinely invited for breast screening. We recommend you consider having breast screening if you have not had chest reconstruction or still have breast tissue.

If you are registered with your GP as male, you will not be invited for breast screening. If you have not had chest reconstruction, we suggest you talk to your GP about screening. They can arrange a referral to a breast screening unit to have a mammogram.

Trans Women registered with a GP as a male.

If you are a trans woman aged 50-70 years who is registered with a GP as male, you will not be invited for breast screening. If you have been on long-term hormone therapy you may be at increased risk of developing breast cancer, therefore we suggest that you speak to your GP who can refer you to a breast screening unit.

Do I have to go to a mobile site?

We try to give appointments as close to your home as possible. If the mobile site is difficult for you, please phone us.

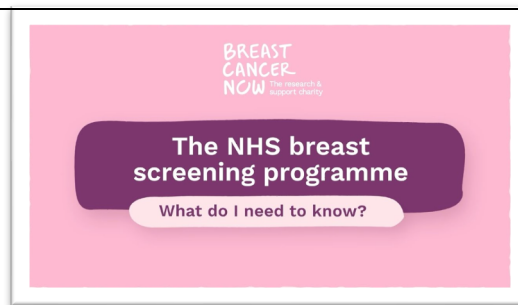
I suffer from cysts in the breast- Can I be screened more frequently?

Eligible women will only be screened every 3 years. If you are worried, please see your GP.

Is it painful?

Some people find mammography painful, and others find it uncomfortable, while other women hardly notice it. All women are different.

How long does it take to screen each breast?



Two images are required for each breast, and it takes a few seconds for each image to be obtained.

Does the compression cause any damage to the breast?

There is no evidence to show that it does.

I missed my appointment- what should I do?

Please contact the breast screening unit and they will be able to arrange another appointment for you.

I have implants, can I have screening?

Yes, please advise us prior to attending your appointment so that a longer appointment slot can be made to discuss the examination with you.

I have undergone reconstructive surgery; can I still be screened?

This will depend on your reconstructive surgery and how much breast tissue remains. We would advise you to contact us to discuss further.

Can I be screened now I'm over 70 years?

If you are aged over 70, we will not automatically invite you for breast screening. However, you do have the right to be screened every three years if you ask. All you need to do is phone or write to your local breast screening unit to make an appointment.

