

Please remain Breast Aware

Currently 1 in 8 women will get breast cancer at some point during their lifetime.

Breast Screening is available every three years and is a good method of finding breast cancer at a very early stage. Breast Screening will pick up most, but not all breast cancer. It is therefore important that you continue to be breast aware. Breast awareness means keeping an eye on your own breasts and learning what is normal for you. It is important to report any changes or concerns to your GP without delay.

BREAST AWARENESS - 5 POINT CODE

- ★ Know what is normal for you
- ★ Know what changes to look for
- ★ Look and Feel
- ★ Report any changes to your GP without delay
- ★ Attend routine breast screening if you are aged 50 or over



Leaflet reviewed April 2011 - C Bailey
(nurses/patient information/IN leaflet)
review April 2014

Why Might It Be Difficult To Complete My Mammogram?

**South West London
Breast Screening
Service**

Thank you for coming to your Breast Screening appointment today. You should be aware that there are a number of circumstances where a complete breast xray (mammogram) is difficult to take. The radiographer will take the best possible mammogram today. Your results letter will only apply to the breast tissue seen on the mammogram film.

If you have a pace-maker

Pace-makers appear as a solid white area on mammograms. This may hide the small area of breast tissue behind the pace-maker, preventing it from being seen on the x-ray. The film readers will only be able to report on the breast tissue that they can see on your breast xray.

If you have breast implants

Breast implants appear as a solid white area on mammograms. This may hide some of the breast tissue, preventing it from being seen on the x-ray. The film readers will only be able to report on the breast tissue that they can see on your breast xray

If you have limited movement

If you have limited movement in your shoulders or when lifting your arms, it may not be possible to get the ideal position for a complete mammogram. This may mean not all of your breast tissue is seen on the x-ray. The film readers will only be able to report on the breast tissue that they can see on your breast xray.

If you find your movement improves in the future please contact us. We will be happy to review your xrays to see if repeating the mammogram would be useful.

If you have a Central or Hickman Line

If you have a Central Venous or Hickman line sited on your chest, as part of treatment for a medical condition, we will still be able to take your x-ray. It may not be possible to get the ideal position for a complete mammogram and this may mean not all of your breast tissue is seen. The film readers will only be able to report on the breast tissue that they can see on your breast xray. If in the future you have the line removed please contact us. We will be happy to review your films to see if repeating the mammogram would be useful.

If you could not tolerate the mammogram

If you were unable to tolerate the mammogram long enough to complete the set of x-rays we will not have been able to get enough information to give you a complete report. The film readers will only be able to report on the x-rays you have had taken. If in the future, you feel your circumstances have changed and that you would be able to tolerate the full set of xrays, please contact us and we will arrange a further appointment for you.

How to contact us

If you wish to discuss any of the above circumstances further please ring our Breast Care Nurses; Eve Smith, Maria Naylor, Sarah Lea and Claire Bailey
On **020 8725 2726**