

# Information for Women Recalled to the Breast Screening Assessment Clinic

This leaflet explains what will happen when you attend the breast screening assessment clinic. We understand that you may be feeling worried about being asked to attend the breast assessment clinic. We hope that the following information will be 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 breast assessment clinic because we need more detail about an area we have seen on your mammograms (breast x-rays) or because you reported a symptom when you came for screening. Therefore you need further tests before we can decide on a result. Most changes that show up on mammograms are not a cause for concern.

## How many women are called back?

Out of every 100 women who have mammograms, about five women will be asked to come back to our clinic for further tests. Of these five women, four will get a normal result.

## 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 Clinical Nurse Specialists on telephone number **020 8725 2724**. She will discuss with you the reason for your recall appointment and will talk to you about what to expect at the clinic.

## What will happen at the clinic?

On arrival most women will meet a Clinical Nurse Specialist 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 would be helpful if you can bring a list of these medicines with you. Do continue to take your regular medication on the day of your appointment.

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

- **Breast x-rays (mammograms)**

You will have further mammograms, in order to show part of your breast in more detail. This may include a special sort of mammogram called a Tomosynthesis Mammogram.

- **Breast examination**

A Doctor or Consultant Radiographer will ask you some questions about any previous breast problems. She or he will show you your mammograms and then examine your breasts.

- **Breast ultrasound**

An ultrasound scan uses sound waves to provide a picture of the breast tissue. It is harmless and does not involve any x-rays. It 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. Local anaesthetic is always used to numb the area first.

## **How long will I be at the clinic?**

**You may be at the clinic for up to five hours.**

You are welcome to bring a friend or relative to sit with you while you wait. There is a coffee shop in the Rose Centre where you can buy food and drink.

## **When will I get the results?**

Before you leave the clinic the Doctor, Practitioner or Nurse will talk to you about your results. If you have a needle biopsy taken, you will be given an appointment to return in one week for your final result.

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

## **Asking for your consent**

It is important that you feel involved in decisions about your care. For some treatments, you will be asked to give your consent to say that you agree to have the procedure and understand what it involves. You can withdraw your consent at any time, even if you have said 'yes' previously. If you would like more details about our consent process, please ask for a copy of our policy.

## **How do I get there?**

The Assessment Clinic is held at The Rose Centre in St George's University Hospital, Tooting.

Please see the enclosed map for details, the map also lists information about public transport and parking.

Please note disabled badge holders can park in any parking bay on the hospital site, including staff bays provided their badge is on display.

## **Research**

St George's University Hospital is committed to taking part in research to improve patient outcomes. You may be invited to participate in this research during your clinic appointment.

As with all research, participation is entirely your choice and your decision to participate will in no way effect your care.

For further information about South West London Breast Screening please visit <https://www.london-breastscreening.org.uk/South-West-London>

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit [www.stgeorges.nhs.uk](http://www.stgeorges.nhs.uk)

## Additional services

### Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can offer you on-the-spot advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or the care you have received. You can visit the PALS office between 9.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday in the main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough wings (near the lift foyer).

**Tel:** 020 8725 2453 **Email:** [pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk)

### NHS Choices

NHS Choices provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make decisions about your health.

**Web:** [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

### NHS 111

You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

**Tel:** 111

### AccessAble

You can download accessibility guides for all of our services by searching 'St George's Hospital' on the AccessAble website ([www.accessable.co.uk](http://www.accessable.co.uk)). The guides are designed to ensure everyone – including those with accessibility needs – can access our hospital and community sites with confidence.



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