

Patient information

Breast Assessment Clinic

Breast Services - NHS Breast Screening

Following your recent visit for a screening mammogram, you have been invited to the Breast Unit at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital. We consider this to be the second part of the screening process.

There are many different reasons why you may have been asked to attend for breast assessment, such as a need to repeat your X-ray to get a better “picture” of your breast. It does not necessarily mean that there is anything seriously wrong.

If you would like to bring someone along feel free. As space is limited please try not to bring more than one person. Your friend or relative will be asked to sit in the main waiting area as patients are undressed in gowns in the clinical waiting area. You can ask a member of staff to get your friend or relative when you go into see the breast specialist.

What happens at the Breast Unit?

After you have reported to the receptionist one of our staff will meet you in the waiting room, take you into the clinical area and explain to you which further tests you will need.

What are the tests?

It may be necessary for you to have one or more of the tests listed below:

- **Mammogram** (an X-ray of the breast)
It is sometimes necessary for you to have another of these X-rays; usually more or different views of your breasts may be taken.
- **Ultrasound** (a scan of the breast)
This is another method of imaging the breast and is completely painless. Ultrasound is a similar test to one pregnant women have to show a picture of the unborn baby. A special jelly will be put on your breast and the doctor or specialist radiographer will lightly place the scanning probe over the skin of the breast.
- **Clinical Examination**
A specialist will explain to you in more detail why you have been recalled and may wish to perform a clinical examination of your breast.
- **Needle Test**
In some cases it may be necessary to take a sample of tissue from the breast.

This can be done in one of two ways.

- A fine needle may be inserted to withdraw fluid from a cyst or take a sample of tissue itself. This is similar to having a blood test.
- Sometimes a larger sample of tissue is needed and a special needle is then used after numbing the breast with local anaesthetic.

What about the results?

Most of these tests will be done during the same visit and unless you have a needle test, you will be given the results on the day. If however you do have a needle test, the sample will need to be sent to the lab and an appointment will be made for you to come back for your results, usually within two weeks.

After this process most women will be found not to have anything seriously wrong and will be discharged from the clinic and continue to be invited for screening again at three year intervals.

Only a small number of women will need to actually come into hospital to have an operation. If this is the case, we will discuss your treatment plan at the results clinic and at this stage you may wish to be referred to another hospital to have your surgery.

We hope that this leaflet helps you to understand what goes on at the Breast Unit.

If you have any questions, please ask the staff. They will be happy to answer any of your queries.

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Further information

Breast Unit

Tel: 0151 706 2920

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 2920

Breast Care Nurses

Tel: 0151 706 2927

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 2927

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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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