

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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

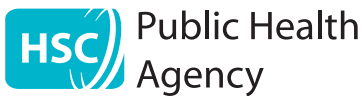
If you notice any unusual changes, you should see your GP as soon as possible.

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

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**Public Health Agency**

12–22 Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8BS.

Tel: 0300 555 0114 (local rate). [www.publichealth.hscni.net](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net)

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

[www.nidirect.gov.uk/breast-screening](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/breast-screening)

[www.becancerawareni.info/breast-cancer](http://www.becancerawareni.info/breast-cancer)

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