

Patient advice sheet

Mammographic Surveillance Assessment

What is Mammographic Surveillance Assessment?

You are currently under mammographic surveillance. This means that you are attending the Breast Unit for annual mammograms. Sometimes there are changes and appearances in the breast tissue which the clinicians would like to look at more closely – this is why we call people back for Mammographic Surveillance Assessment.

What happens at a Mammographic Surveillance Assessment Appointment?

Please report to Reception in the Breast Unit. You should expect to be in the Unit for up to 2 hours. You are welcome to bring a relative or friend with you.

Please do not use talcum powder on the day of your appointment as this can sometimes be seen on the breast images. You can use roll-on antiperspirant or deodorant.

The images you have already had taken will be reviewed by the clinicians in the clinic. They may require further x-ray images of specific areas of the breast or images taken in different positions and at different angles. The number of extra images taken will vary but it is important to gather all the information required.

Ultrasound of the breast tissue and armpit will usually be undertaken as this is complimentary to the x-ray images. Ultrasound is a painless procedure and is the same test that lets pregnant women see their baby.

During this appointment it may be necessary to take a sample (biopsy) of breast tissue for analysis in the laboratory. This involves taking tissue from any area of concern and will be done under x-ray or ultrasound guidance, using local anaesthetic to numb the area.

When will I get the results?

Often, after the further imaging, we can reassure you there and then that there is no cause for concern. The person who has requested your mammographic surveillance imaging will also be informed of this result.

If you have had breast sampling (biopsy) we will plan for you to get the results approximately one week after the biopsy and arrange an appointment with the appropriate team before you leave the Breast Unit.

If I have any questions before I come, who can I ask?

We hope this leaflet will help you to understand what happens at a Mammographic Surveillance Assessment appointment. If you have any more questions, please contact us here in the Breast Unit. The staff will be happy to answer your questions.

Breast Unit Office: 01494 323300

Our telephone lines are open every weekday from 9.00am until 4.30pm

Email: buc-tr.bsu@nhs.net

You can also contact the Breast Care Nurses on 01494 426228

Please remember that this leaflet is intended as general information only. We aim to make the information as up to date and accurate as possible, but please note that it is subject to change. Please therefore always check specific advice on any concerns you may have with your doctor.

How can I help reduce healthcare associated infections?

Infection prevention & control is important to the well-being of our patients and for that reason we have infection prevention & control procedures in place. Keeping your hands clean is an effective way of preventing the spread of infections. Please follow our infection prevention and control guidelines when visiting our healthcare sites. Further information is available on our website.

Patient Advice Sheet

If you would like a copy of this information on audiotape, in large print or translated, please call the Patient Advice Liaison Service on 01296 831120 or email bht.pals@nhs.net