

Breast screening for women over 70

Key messages:

- If you are over 70, you are still at risk of developing breast cancer.
- You will no longer automatically get a breast screening appointment, as there is currently a lack of evidence that breast screening women over 70 is of any benefit.
- A study in England is looking at the benefits and risks of breast screening in women aged 70 to 73. In the early 2020s, we will know what this study has learned.
- If you are over 70 and would still like to be screened, please phone your local breast screening office (see below).
- Taking part in breast screening is your choice.

More information:

- Breast screening is carried out at screening centres and accessible mobile units across Wales.
- Here are the phone numbers for your local breast screening centres:
North Wales 01492 860888
South East Wales 029 20397222
West Wales 01792 459988.
- A breast X-ray (mammogram) looks for signs of breast cancer.
- Your test will be done by a specially trained female member of staff.
- If changes are seen on your X-ray, you may need further tests.
- Like all medical tests, breast screening is not 100% accurate.
- Sometimes breast screening can pick up cancers that would never have caused harm. This means that some women are treated for breast cancer even though the cancer would never be life-threatening.

What you can do:

- To help you decide if you want to continue to have breast screening, visit www.breasttestwales.nhs.uk or speak to your GP.
- Whatever your age, it is important to visit your GP if you notice any changes in your breasts.

