

Information Sheet

Information for women who have had a partial mammogram or were unable to have a mammogram

Breast screening involves having X-rays (mammograms) taken of each breast. Usually two x-rays of each breast will make sure that all of the breast tissue is included in the mammogram. Sometimes all four x-rays can be taken, but they will not show the whole breast. Occasionally it is not possible to take all the x-rays needed.

Your screening result will only be for the areas of breast tissue that can be seen on the mammogram. If not all of the breast tissue is x-rayed it is possible that an area with cancer will be missed.

Reasons why you may have had a partial mammogram and your x-rays did not include all of the breast tissue:

If you needed to ask the radiographer to stop the screening process

Sometimes women find it uncomfortable or painful to have the mammogram taken and ask for screening to stop. If this has happened to you, your screening results will be for whatever x-rays were taken at that time. You are welcome to make another appointment to complete your examination.

If you have limited movement

If you have limited movement we may not have been able to help you get into the best position for the mammogram to be taken. This can mean that only part of your breast tissue was included on the x-ray .

Your screening result will only be for the areas of breast tissue that can be seen on the mammogram. You are welcome to contact the screening unit if your movement improves in the future. We can check your mammogram to see if repeating it would be helpful.

If you have a Central or Hickman line

Having a Central Venous or Hickman line on your chest as part of medical treatment means that we may not have been able to x-ray all of your breast tissue. This may be because you have not been able to get into the best position for the mammogram to be taken.

If you have the line removed in the future, please contact the screening unit. We can check your mammogram to see if repeating it would be helpful.

If you were unable to have a mammogram

Sometimes it is not possible to have screening mammograms.

This may be because:

- we could not position you to take a good enough mammogram to justify the x-ray exposure;

- you needed to ask the radiographer to stop; or
- you changed your mind and decided not to be screened.

If you did not have a mammogram, we will not send you a screening results letter.

We will invite you for screening again in three years if you are still within the invitation age range. If you want to try again to be screened before then, please 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 centre. Contact details will be:

- on your original appointment letter;
- in your local telephone directory;
- available from your GP practice; or
- see below

For more information about NHS breast screening, go to <http://www.phw.nhs.wales/breast-screening>

Be breast aware

Breast screening is not able to find every case of breast cancer. Breast cancer can develop between screening appointments. It is important that you continue to be breast aware.

Being breast aware means learning what is normal for you and becoming familiar with your breasts. 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.

Five-point code

- Know what is **normal** for you
- Know what **changes** to look for
- **Look** and **feel**
- **Report any changes** to your GP without delay
- **Go for routine breast screening** if you are aged over 50

Contact details for your Breast Test Wales screening centre

South East Wales

Breast Test Wales, 18 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF11 9LJ
Phone: 029 2039 7222 Minicom: 029 2078 7907

West Wales

Breast Test Wales, 24 Alexandra Road, Swansea, SA1 5DY
Swansea, SA1 5DY
Phone: 01792 459988 Minicom: 01792 453110

North Wales

Breast Test Wales, Maesdu Road, Llandudno, LL30 1QY
Phone: 01492 860888 Minicom: 01492 863503