

## Patient information

# Information about our Breast Assessment Clinics

You have been recalled to one of our breast screening assessment clinics. This leaflet is designed to tell you what happens at the clinic and who will be there for you. If after reading it you have any further questions please ring us on 01284 713768.

A number of people are called back for a second stage of screening, either because more information is needed before giving a result, or changes have been found on your imaging since your last screening. Usually these changes require no further investigation, but we do need to make checks to be sure.

Appointments may take between two and four hours.

If you would like to bring someone with you, please feel free to do so.

### Where is the clinic held?

The clinic is held in the Breast Imaging Department at the West Suffolk Hospital.

Disabled parking is available around the site, please refer to the hospital map available on the Trust website <http://www.wsh.nhs.uk/Patients-and-visitors/Information-for-visitors/Car-parking.aspx>

or ring for further information.

### Who will be at the assessment clinic?

**Reception and administration staff:** Are there to welcome you and for clerical support.

**Radiographer:** Our team of specially trained female Radiographers will perform any additional breast x-rays.

**Consultant radiologist / consultant radiographer / advanced practitioners:** Will interpret the mammogram and will perform ultrasound or a biopsy if required.

**Breast Care Nurses:** A specially trained breast care nurse is always present at our assessment clinics and is available to give information and support. Telephone number 01284 713281 (Monday to Friday 8:30am – 4.00pm).

## **Further investigations that may be required**

A female member of staff will always be present during your investigations.

**Mammogram:** Additional breast x-rays may be required to help to further assess your breasts.

**Ultrasound:** An ultrasound scan is often required; this gives additional information to that seen on a mammogram. An ultrasound scan involves putting gel onto the breast and passing a probe over the skin surface. This produces an image on a screen using sound waves.

**Breast Biopsy:** Small samples of tissue are taken from your breast using a special needle; a local anaesthetic is used to numb the breast first. This may be done under ultrasound or x-ray guidance. The samples of breast tissue will then be sent for analysis. Sometimes a small titanium clip marker will need to be placed at the site of the biopsy to make it easier to identify the area should we need to in the future. If we do not need to find the area again then it is safe to leave the marker in the breast.

**Cyst Aspiration:** If your ultrasound scan confirms that you have a cyst, then fluid may be drawn off using a small needle.

## **Your results**

A proportion of people who attend our assessment clinics are found to need no further treatment. If this applies to you, you will be told this at the end of your visit. The result is confirmed in writing shortly afterwards.

If you have a biopsy you will be given an appointment to see the doctor to discuss your results. We try to ensure no-one waits more than a week, but occasionally there may be a delay. You will be contacted if this is the case.

If after reading this you have any further questions please contact the Breast Imaging team on 01284 713768.

*If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (the new name for DisabledGo)*  
<https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust>



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