

*This information is for women who:*

**Had an incomplete mammogram, or who are unable to have mammography**

### **Incomplete Mammography**

Breast Screening involves having 2 images (mammograms) taken of each breast. Sometimes it is difficult to take all the mammograms needed for breast screening. Sometimes all 4 images 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:

#### **If you needed the practitioner to stop**

Sometimes women find it uncomfortable or painful to have the x-rays taken and ask to stop. If this happened to you, then your screening results will be for whatever images were able to be taken. You are welcome to make another appointment to complete your examination or to try again to have a full set of mammograms taken.

#### **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 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 then check your images to see if repeating them would be helpful.

#### **If you have a pacemaker or loop recorder**

X-rays do not affect your pacemaker or loop recorder. Although the breast was squeezed to take the images, this does not squeeze your pacemaker or loop recorder. Pacemakers and loop recorders look like solid white areas on images. This may hide a small area of breast tissue. Your screening result will only be for the areas of the breast tissue that can be seen on the mammogram.

#### **If you have a 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 is because you may not have been able to get in the best position for the mammogram to be taken. Your screening result will only be for the areas of the breast tissue that can be seen on the mammogram. If you have your line removed in the future, please contact the screening unit. We can check your images to see if repeating them would be helpful.

**If you were unable to have mammography:**

Sometimes it is not possible to take the screening mammograms.

This may be because:

- We could not position you to take a good enough mammogram to justify the x-ray exposure, or
- 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, then we will not send you a screening result letter. You will be invited for screening again in 3 years if you are still within the invitation age range. If you want to try to be screened again, before you are due in 3 years, you can contact the screening office on **01752 431652**.