

West Devon and East Cornwall Breast Screening Service
Primrose Breast Care Unit
Level 7
Derriford Hospital
Plymouth
PL6 8DH

Telephone Plymouth 01752 431652
Email: plh-tr.plymouthbreastscreening@nhs.net

Consultant Radiologists - Dr Karen Paisley (Clinical Director), Dr Jim Steel, Dr Sarah Doyle,
Dr Simon Lloyd, Dr Erika Toth, Dr Nick Carter
Consultant Radiographer- Maggie Jenkin
Lead Radiographer – Mrs Diana Nicholson
Programme Manager – Frances Slater

Breast Screening Assessment Clinic

Following your recent mammogram you have been asked to attend an assessment clinic at the Primrose Breast Care Centre at Derriford Hospital.

Why have I been called back?

There is an area on the images which needs to be looked at more closely.

Or

You mentioned to the radiographer previously that you were concerned about an area in the breast (e.g. a lump). You may be asked back for a check even if the x-rays are normal.

Please do not be too alarmed as 1 in 25 women are called back and most turn out to be normal.

What happens at the clinic?

- a. Usually (but not always) the radiographer will take additional images of the area in question.
- b. You will be examined by a doctor.
- c. Sometimes an ultrasound scan will be performed by the doctor.

After these tests most women will turn out not to have any problem and will be reassured and put back into the three year screening programme.

What happens if an abnormality is found requiring further investigation?

The findings will be discussed with you. If the tests show an abnormality on the x-ray and / or ultrasound scan, the doctor may advise a needle test. The abnormality may be caused by a benign cyst (a fluid filled sac) and sometimes fluid may be drawn off with a fine needle and sent to the laboratory for examination. Samples of tissue (core biopsy) are taken after local anaesthetic. This will be done during this appointment or occasionally you may be asked to come back for a core biopsy on another day.

How long will it take?

Depending on what tests are needed this can take between 1-3 hours. The doctors will give you the results of your x-rays/ultrasound scans in the clinic. Because of the nature of the clinics we cannot predict how long individual women will need for all their tests, and therefore you may not be seen exactly at your appointment time.

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Wearing a face covering

In line with government advice and hospital policy, please wear a face covering to your appointment and keep it on the whole time you are in the unit. This can be a mask you have bought or made, or a face covering worn for religious or cultural reasons (as long as they cover the mouth and nose). A visor is not acceptable. For guidance on how to wear and make a face covering, visit www.gov.uk and search for 'face covering'. If you do not bring your own, one will be provided on arrival.

Our staff are here to help you, but are vulnerable, as they cannot maintain a social distance of 1m when performing your mammogram. Not wishing to wear a mask is not an option unless there are rare very specific exceptional circumstances, which should be discussed prior to your appointment. If you turn up for your mammogram and decline to wear a mask, we will unfortunately not be able to perform your mammogram at that time without prior agreement/risk assessment.

Breast Care Nurse

We realise that being called back is very alarming. All the staff are caring and understanding and we will try to meet your concerns. A breast care nurse will be in the clinic to help you. You may also contact them before your visit if you wish on the following telephone number. Please leave a message with your name and LPL reference number and state you are calling regarding your assessment appointment and a nurse will get back to you. Calls are dealt with daily, Monday to Friday

01752 431898

You are very welcome to bring a relative or friend along with you to the appointment.

If you have any other queries or wish to change your appointment please contact the screening office on 01752 431652 or email us on plh-tr.plymouthbreastscreening@nhs.net. Please use this email for appointment changes only.

Breast Care Team