

# Your assessment at the Breast Unit

Information and advice for patients

## ***City, Sandwell & Walsall Breast Screening Service***

You have been asked to come to the breast unit for a further assessment following your routine breast screening appointment.

We understand that you may be feeling worried and hope that this information will help you to understand why you need to come for a further assessment and what will happen.

### **Why do I need a further assessment?**

Sometimes the mammogram from your breast screening appointment will not give us enough information and we may need to do further tests and examinations to look at your breasts in more detail before we can decide on a result.

About 4 out of 100 women who have breast screening will be asked to come back to our clinic for this further assessment. This is part of routine screening and for most women invited back nothing of concern will be found. 3 out of 4 of these women will be found to have a normal result and will be invited for routine breast screening in 3 years time.

We understand that you may be worried about being invited back to the breast unit. If you have any questions about your appointment you are welcome to discuss them with our specialist staff at the Breast Unit or you may prefer to talk to one of our Breast Care Nurses before your visit.

### **Where do I go?**

Your assessment will be in the Breast Unit at City Hospital or the Breast Unit at Walsall Manor Hospital.

The Breast Unit at City Hospital is on the ground floor of the Birmingham Treatment Centre.

The Breast Unit at Walsall Manor Hospital is on the 1st floor in the Family Health and Diagnostics Department.

### **What will happen at this visit?**

When you arrive at the hospital please sign in at the Breast Unit reception and take a seat. A radiographer will then call you into the X-ray room and explain what is going to happen.

You may have some or all of the following tests. Which test(s) you have will depend on the reason why you were called back for further assessment:

#### **Mammogram**

Most women will have a mammogram. This will be to show a particular part of your breast in more detail.

# Your assessment at the Breast Unit

Information and advice for patients

## ***City, Sandwell & Walsall Breast Screening Service***

### **Breast Ultrasound**

Some women will need an ultrasound. An ultrasound scan will use sound waves to produce a picture of your breast tissue. Jelly will be applied to your breast and a probe will be passed over the breast to produce a picture on the screen. An ultrasound is harmless, pain-free and does not involve any x-rays.

### **Breast examination**

Your doctor/practitioner will talk to you about your mammogram; they may ask you some questions about your general health and will then examine your breasts.

### **Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA)**

If you have a lump or an abnormal area, the doctor may pass a fine needle into the area and take a sample of cells using a syringe. The cells will then be looked at under a microscope.

### **Core Biopsy**

A core biopsy is when a larger needle is used to get a small sample of tissue, rather than just cells. This is performed under a local anaesthetic injection which numbs the area.

### **What are the benefits?**

The benefit of these tests is that we can detect breast cancer cells at an early stage when they are too small to be seen or felt. This means your treatment can be started early. The earlier treatment is started, the higher the rate of survival.

### **What are the risks?**

After an FNA or core biopsy you may feel some discomfort at the needle site. You can take painkillers such as paracetamol to help relieve this. You may also have some bruising; this is very common and will settle down.

There is a very small risk that your ribs or lungs may be injured by the needle but this risk is much less than 1 in a 1000. This risk is reduced even more because the needle is guided using ultrasound scanning or x-ray imaging.

### **Can I bring someone with me?**

You are welcome to bring your husband, partner, a relative or friend with you.

### **How long will the appointment take?**

The length of your visit will vary depending on what further assessment you are having. It can take up to 2 hours.

# Your assessment at the Breast Unit

Information and advice for patients

## ***City, Sandwell & Walsall Breast Screening Service***

### **What happens after the visit?**

We will notify your GP of your visit.

Most women will not need to visit the unit again; the mammogram and tests are all we need to do. If everything is well, we will invite you for your next screening in 3 years' time.

You may need to come back to the unit for your test results. We will let you know if you do. If the tests show that you require treatment, we will discuss with you what will happen next. You will be cared for by our specially trained staff who will work with you to make sure you are given the best treatment at all times.

### **Women over 70 years old**

After you are 70 years old we will not routinely call you for screening however you can still be screened if you wish. Please contact the breast screening unit by calling:

**City Hospital** – 0121 507 4967, option 1

### **Our Breast Unit's**

#### **City Hospital**

Address: Breast Unit  
Birmingham Treatment Centre  
City Hospital  
Dudley Road  
Birmingham  
B18 7QH

Telephone: 0121 507 4967 (option 1)

Car parking: up to 15 minutes	free
15 minutes – 1 hour	£2.50
Up to 2 hours	£3.50
Up to 3 hours	£4.00
Up to 5 hours	£4.50
Up to 24 hours	£5

Tickets must be paid for at the pay station on the car park before you go back to your car as there are no payment facilities at the barrier.

Public transport: The following buses stop near City Hospital: 11A, 11C (Aberdeen St), 80 (Icknield Port Road), 81, 82, 87, 89 (Dudley Rd)

# Your assessment at the Breast Unit

Information and advice for patients

## ***City, Sandwell & Walsall Breast Screening Service***

Further information can be found on [www.networkwestmidlands.com](http://www.networkwestmidlands.com) or by calling Traveline on 0871 200 22 33.

### **Walsall Manor Hospital**

Address: Breast Unit  
Walsall Manor Hospital  
Moat Road  
WS2 9PS

Telephone: 01922 721172 extension 6404

Car parking: up to 1 hour	£2
1 – 2 hours	£3
2 – 3 hours	£4
3 – 4 hours	£5
Over 4 hours	£6

Tickets must be paid for at the pay station on the car park before you go back to your car as there are no payment facilities at the barrier.

Public transport: The following buses stop near Walsall Manor Hospital: 335, 336

Further information can be found on [www.networkwestmidlands.com](http://www.networkwestmidlands.com) or by calling Traveline on 0871 200 22 33.

### **Remember**

- Be breast aware
- Know what is normal for you
- Look and feel
- Know what changes to look for (lumps, pain, discharge from the nipple, dimpling) or any changes that are different for you
- Tell your doctor about any changes immediately
- Always go for breast screening every 3 years

# Your assessment at the Breast Unit

Information and advice for patients

## ***City, Sandwell & Walsall Breast Screening Service***

### **Contact details**

If you are concerned about any changes in your breasts at any time you should contact your GP.

### **Further Information**

For more information about our hospitals and services please see our websites [www.swbh.nhs.uk](http://www.swbh.nhs.uk) and [www.swbhengage.com](http://www.swbhengage.com), follow us on Twitter @SWBHnhs and like us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/SWBHnhs](http://www.facebook.com/SWBHnhs).

### **Sources of information used in this leaflet**

- NHS Breast screening programme, Publication 49, 'Clinical Guidelines for Breast Cancer Screening Assessment', June 2010
- NHS Breast screening programme, Publication 64, 'Guidelines on improving the quality of written information sent to women about breast screening', August 2007
- Independent Breast Screening Review, 'The Benefits and Harms of Breast Cancer screening', October 2012

If you would like to suggest any amendments or improvements to this leaflet please contact the communications department on 0121 507 5495 or email: [swb-tr.swbh-gm-patient-information@nhs.net](mailto:swb-tr.swbh-gm-patient-information@nhs.net)



A Teaching Trust of The University of Birmingham  
Incorporating City, Sandwell and Rowley Regis Hospitals  
© Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust

ML4344  
Issue Date: October 2013  
Review Date: October 2015