



After your screening mammogram, what next?

Congratulations on having this important health check!

Your images will be read by two radiologists. Every effort is made to ensure that your results are posted in the mail within two weeks. A copy is also sent to the GP that you nominate unless you have requested otherwise. If you have any concerns you may visit our website at www.breastscreen.health.wa.gov.au or phone (08) 9323 6700 or country toll-free on 1800 800 033.

What if I need a repeat X-ray?

Very occasionally the radiologist will request a repeat X-ray if the picture produced is not clear enough. If this is necessary, you will receive a phone call or letter requesting you return. These repeat X-rays will be done at the screening clinic.

What if I need further breast X-rays?

About 1 in 20 women are asked to come back for further breast X-rays. These X-rays will focus on the area of the breast that needs to be examined in more detail. If this is necessary BreastScreen WA will contact you to make an appointment.

Women living in the metropolitan area

In the metropolitan area, further X-rays are performed at one of BreastScreen WA's Breast Assessment Centres, located at Fiona Stanley, Royal Perth and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospitals.

Often these further X-rays will show there is no problem. A small number of women need some further tests, such as an ultrasound or biopsy. These tests are carried out on the same day as the further X-rays.

Women living in country WA

For women in the country further X-rays are performed at the mobile service. BreastScreen WA will contact you to let you know if any additional tests will be needed.

There is a permanent regional screening and assessment service at Bunbury South West Health Campus.

It is important to remember that most women who have further tests do not have cancer

All women who require further tests have the choice of being referred straight to one of our Breast Assessment Centres or seeing their GP. All test results at the Breast Assessment Centres are available at the time of appointment, except core biopsy results which will be available 24 hours later.

For the few women with cancer, early detection will greatly improve the chance of successful treatment. Small breast cancers can often be treated by less extensive surgery than that required for large cancers.

Will a mammogram show all breast cancers?

Screening mammograms can detect 70-90% of breast cancers. There are, however, a small number of cancers that cannot be seen on a mammogram. There is a chance that mammography will either miss a change due to breast cancer (false negative) or that further tests will be performed to examine a change that is not due to breast cancer (false positive).

If you notice any changes in your breasts such as lumps, nipple discharge or persistent new breast pain, please see your GP promptly, even if your last mammogram showed no signs of breast cancer. Benign changes, such as cysts, are often seen on a mammogram but will only be reported to you if further tests are needed.

What happens next?

BreastScreen WA will send you a letter when you are due for your next mammogram. If for some reason you do not receive a letter, please phone us on 13 20 50* and we will arrange an appointment for you.

The mammograms you have had taken with the program are carefully kept for comparison with future breast screens.

Women aged 75 years and over do not receive a reminder letter but are welcome to book online or phone 13 20 50* for an appointment.

If you change your address, please phone 13 20 50* and let us know.

For an interpreter please call 13 14 50

(*for the cost of a local call)

What else should I do?

Women 50 years or over, have a FREE screening mammogram every two years.

- If you are screened regularly any breast cancer detected is likely to be at an early stage.
- Only between 1–5% of women may require an annual screening mammogram depending on the significance of their family history of breast cancer.
- If you have previously had breast cancer it is important to see your GP for regular follow up and have an annual screening mammogram.

Be breast aware

- Get to know your breasts and what is normal for you. Look in the mirror at your breasts and feel your breasts from time to time.
- See your GP promptly if you notice any unusual changes in your breasts.
- Ask your GP about breast health at your next check-up.

Changes which must not be ignored include:

1. a lump, lumpiness or thickening in the breast or armpit;
2. changes in the nipple such as inversion, new nipple discharge, itchy or ulcerated skin;
3. changes in the skin of the breast such as dimpling, puckering or redness;
4. an area of the breast that feels different from the rest;
5. new persistent breast pain.

Do you have any questions?

Contact your GP or phone: BreastScreen WA on 13 20 50 for appointments or (08) 9323 6700 for information or 1800 800 033 toll-free for country women

Email: breastscreenwa@health.wa.gov.au

National Relay Service www.relayservice.gov.au

13 14 50 Translating Interpreting Service (TIS)

More information in your language is available at the BreastScreen WA website:

www.breastscreen.health.wa.gov.au/Breast-screening/Multicultural-women



www.breastscreen.health.wa.gov.au