



## Further tests, what does this mean?

**You have been recalled for further breast X-rays. The majority of women recalled for further tests have a normal outcome (do not have breast cancer).**

### Why have I been recalled?

It is not unusual to be called back for further breast X-rays. Common reasons for recall include:

#### Density

A mammogram is an X-ray of your breast tissue. Uneven distribution of breast tissue can look like an abnormality. Further X-rays may help to identify a dense area as normal glandular tissue.

#### Cysts

A round density with clear edges is usually a cyst or benign (non-cancerous) lump. If the edges are not clearly seen further tests may be needed.

#### Calcification

Flecks of calcium (calcification) are seen on the mammogram in many women and these calcifications are usually normal. However, irregular groups of calcification may be the earliest sign of cancer and need further tests.

#### Scarring

A previous operation on the breast may have caused a scar. Scar tissue makes X-rays more difficult to read and you may need some further tests.

#### Skin markers

Skin markers which show up on the X-ray may be placed over areas of scarring, moles or symptomatic areas in the breast to assist the radiologist in studying the X-rays.

### How will I find out the results of the further breast X-rays?

BreastScreen WA will telephone you to let you know the results of your mammogram. Additional tests may be recommended and those tests will depend on the appearance of the mammogram. Feel free to ask as many questions as you like, so you understand why you have been recalled.

If you require additional tests, you will be offered an appointment at a BreastScreen WA Breast Assessment Centre for your further breast tests. This service is free and rural women may be eligible for assistance from the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS). Please see your GP for more information.

### Previous images

Please keep all images from previous mammograms and breast ultrasound examinations that you receive. Previous images can be a great help to the radiologist to show that a possible area of concern on your current mammogram is an innocent longstanding finding of no concern.

### What further tests may be necessary?

Most changes detected by a mammogram are too small to feel in the breast and require special tests.

#### Diagnostic further view mammography

This involves additional mammograms of the breast focussed on the area of clinical interest.

#### Breast Tomosynthesis / 3D mammography

Three-dimensional mammography (also called digital breast tomosynthesis) uses special computer software to create a 3D image of the breast using X-rays (mammograms) taken at different angles. A standard mammogram creates a two-dimensional (2D) image of the breast.

#### Clinical breast examination

Should you require a clinical examination after your images have been examined by the radiologist; a female breast physician will perform a thorough examination of your breasts and talk to you about your medical history.

#### Breast ultrasound

This is a test using sound waves (not radiation) to show more detail of the breast tissue. The breast is covered in gel and a probe is pressed against the skin.

#### Image guided biopsy

A breast biopsy is where a needle is inserted into the breast to take a sample of tissue from the area of clinical interest, so that it can be examined under a microscope.

The radiologist carrying out the procedure uses ultrasound or X-ray guidance to ensure that the needle samples tissue from the right location. A local anaesthetic will be used. The tissue is examined by a pathologist and these results are usually available 24 hours later.

### Marker clip

Sometimes after an X-ray guided biopsy has been performed it may be necessary to mark the site of the biopsy with a tiny metallic marker clip.

## Can all cancers be detected by these tests?

Most breast cancers will be diagnosed, but no test can guarantee the detection of all cancers. It is important for all women to follow up any recommendations made.

## At the Assessment appointment

These are multidisciplinary Specialist Centres where you will receive expert assessment and management by our team of radiologists, pathologists, nurses, radiographers, breast physicians and surgeons.

All appointments are scheduled in the morning. You may need to allow **up to 8 hours** for your full assessment. Please let the clinic staff know if you require a medical certificate for your employer.

Please bring money for parking. Alternatively, please phone Transperth on 13 62 13 for public transport options.

## Results to your GP

If you have nominated a GP (and we encourage you to do so) BreastScreen WA will notify them of your further tests appointment. Your GP will also be notified of your assessment visit results.

## BreastScreen WA

Telephone (08) 9323 6700 Fax (08) 9323 6799  
 Email [breastscreenwa@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:breastscreenwa@health.wa.gov.au)  
 National Relay Service [www.relayservice.gov.au](http://www.relayservice.gov.au)  
 Translating Interpreting Service (TIS) 13 14 50

## BreastScreen WA Assessment Centres

**South West Health Campus**  
 Corner of Bussell Highway and Robertson Drive,  
 Bunbury Tel: (08) 9792 2400

**Fiona Stanley Hospital**  
 Level 1 Main Hospital, 102-118 Murdoch Drive,  
 Murdoch Tel: (08) 6152 4125

**Royal Perth Hospital (RPH) Breast Assessment Clinic**  
 Level 3, North Block  
 Wellington Street, Perth  
 Tel: (08) 9224 2723

**Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Breast Assessment Centre**  
 G Block, 1st Floor  
 Hospital Avenue, Nedlands  
 Tel: (08) 6457 4590

