



West Sussex Breast Screening Service

The NHS offers breast screening to save lives from breast cancer.

Screening does this by finding breast cancers at an early stage when they are too small to see or feel. Breast screening uses an x-ray test called a mammogram to check the breast for signs of cancer.

The scan is quick and simple and early detection of cancer may often mean simpler and more successful treatment.

Patients aged 50 up to their 71st birthday are invited to have breast screening every three years. During the restoration of services following the initial coronavirus outbreak, NHS breast screening services temporarily paused taking self-referrals from patients aged 71 and over. After further review Public Health England have now advised that we can now accept self-referrals for patients aged 71 and over.

Patient feedback from January 2020 – July 2020

"well organised"
"wonderful service"
"amazing service"
expert thorough
efficient
professional exemplary
"excellent service"
"great service"
"staff were fantastic"
professionalism

WEST SUSSEX
BREAST
SCREENING
SERVICE



Frequently asked questions

How will patients be invited?

The Screening Office will send you an invitation letter. We ask that you call the office to make an appointment once you received this invitation.

Can they change their appointment?

Yes - they can phone the office on 01903-239757.

A patient is new to the area. What do they do if they want a mammogram?

The Screening Office routinely contacts patients who have moved into the area every three months unless their GP practice is about to be screened. You can call the office to check.

How often can they be screened by the Screening Service?

Every three years.

How long does screening take?

A patient should be on the mobile unit for half an hour or less.

Does the patient need to do anything?

They should wear suitable clothing as they will need to undress her/their top half. They should not wear spray deodorant as this can make tiny marks on the x-rays.

How soon do results arrive?

Results should be received within three weeks.

Should a patient still examine the breasts?

Yes - they should be aware of any changes in the breasts. Breast cancer can develop at any time, including the intervals between screening.

If they finds a change, who should they tell?

The patient should contact the GP who will refer you to see a Breast Surgeon at Worthing Hospital. The Screening Service cannot screen patients on demand.

If you call you back for assessment after screening, what does that mean?

It usually means that we have seen a change in x-rays compared with those taken last time. The majority of patients recalled do not have cancer. However, the films may not give a complete answer and further investigation is sometimes needed.

What will happen at assessment?

Some extra mammograms may be taken. The patient will then see a senior specialist doctor who will undertake a clinical examination and possibly an ultrasound.

What happens then?

The majority of patients are found to be normal at this stage. Some patients may need a biopsy to help with a diagnosis. This is sometimes done at the assessment appointment but most patients will need to come back on another day.

West Sussex Breast Screening Service
Worthing Hospital
Lyndhurst Road
BN11 2DH
Phone: 01903 239757
Email:

uhsussex.westsussexbreastscreening@nhs.net

Facebook:

@WestSussexBreastScreeningService