



Your assessment clinic visit

What happens when I'm asked to come back for further tests?

This brochure answers some of your questions about what happens now that you have been asked back for further tests.

Why have I been asked to come back?

About 1 in 20 women may be asked to come back for further tests. This is because there is an area on their breast screen (screening mammogram) that needs further investigation.

It's important to remember that most women who are recalled will be reassured that their breasts are normal.

Where will I go for further tests?

You will be asked to come to a BreastScreen NSW assessment centre, which may or may not be at the same place as you had your breast screen.

Details of where to go and what to do will have been explained to you over the phone, or in your letter asking you to return for further tests.

The centres are clinics where specialists in breast health work together as a team. At BreastScreen NSW, any tests required for further assessment are free of charge.

If you like, you are very welcome to bring a family member or a friend with you on the day.

How long will the tests take?

The tests at the assessment centre could take up to two hours to complete, but this may be longer in some cases.

So, please leave plenty of time for your appointment. We can provide you with a work certificate if required.

Who can I talk to?

If you are concerned and would like further information, you can ring the centre you have

been recalled to and talk to the counsellor.

Please let us know if you want us to arrange for an interpreter to be present.

What further tests may I need?

One or more tests may be used during an assessment.

The tests you require will depend on the results of your breast screen and whether or not a breast lump or other symptoms have been noted.

Our doctors and counsellors will answer any questions that you may have, so please feel free to ask them.

Information about these tests is given below.

Further breast screens

Either enlarged views or x-rays of part of the breast will usually be needed to provide more information.

Breast ultrasound

This is a painless test using sound waves to further check your breast tissue.

Clinical breast examination

A doctor will check for any changes in the breast that can be seen or felt.

Other tests

After some or all of the above, a small number of women will need further tests such as fine needle aspiration or core biopsy.

Both tests use a needle to take a small sample of cells and/or tissue from the part of the breast under investigation.

If you need either of these tests, more information will be given to you at assessment.

When will I get my results?

In most cases you will be told your results on the day and receive a letter shortly afterwards.

However, biopsy results may take longer, perhaps 3 or 4 days.

This is because the cells or tissue sample taken needs to be sent to a laboratory to be looked at under a microscope. If you wish, a copy of your results can also be sent to your doctor.

What happens after my assessment?

Most women will be asked to come back for a routine breast screen in 2 years.

Depending on your test results, you may be asked to come back before the 2 year period, but we will tell you if this is the case.