

Information for women who: had incomplete mammography, or were unable to have mammography.

If you had incomplete mammography:

Breast screening involves having two x-rays (mammograms) taken of each breast. Sometimes it is difficult to take all the mammograms needed for screening. Sometimes all four x-rays can be taken, but they will not show the whole breast.

There are different reasons why you may not have been able to have complete mammography on one or both breasts:

If you needed to ask the radiographer to stop

Sometimes women find it uncomfortable or painful to have the x-rays taken, and ask to stop. If this has happened for you, then your screening results will be for whatever x-rays were able to be taken. You are welcome to make another appointment to complete your examination or try again to have a full set of mammograms taken.

If you have limited movement

If you have limited movement we may not have been able to help you get into the best position for mammography. This can mean that only part of your breast tissue was x-rayed. Your screening result will only be for the areas of breast tissue that can be seen on the mammogram. If your movement improves in the future, please contact the screening unit. We can check your x-rays to see if repeating them would be helpful.

If you were unable to have mammography:

Sometimes it is not possible to take the screening mammograms.

This may be because

- We could not position you to take a good enough mammogram to justify the x-ray exposure, or
- You needed to ask the radiographer to stop, or
- You changed your mind and decided not to be screened.

If you did not have mammography, then we will not send you a screening results letter. You will be invited for screening again in 3 years if you are still within the invitation age range. If you want to try again to be screened before then, simply contact your local screening unit.

Further information:

If you would like to talk about your screening appointment, or make another appointment, please contact your local breast screening unit. Contact details will be

- On your original appointment letter
- In your local telephone directory
- Often available via your GP practice

For more information about NHS Breast Screening, go to www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk

Be Breast Aware

Breast screening is not able to find every case of breast cancer. Breast cancer can develop in between screening appointments. It is important that you continue to be breast aware.

Being breast aware means becoming familiar with your breasts, and learning what is normal for you. Some women for example, find their breasts feel tender or lumpy at certain times of the month.

If you notice any unusual changes, you should see your GP as soon as possible.

Be Breast Aware 5-point code:

1. You should know what is normal for you
2. Know what changes to look out for
3. Look at and feel your breasts
4. Tell your GP about any unusual changes
5. Go for screening when you are invited