

Screening vs Diagnostic Mammography

Information for General Practitioners

Screening Mammography

(BreastScreen Queensland Program)

For asymptomatic 'well' women to detect unsuspected lesions.

Emphasis is on population benefit.

Services provided through an organised program of community and health professionals where recruitment, education, screening, assessment, recall, data collection and evaluation are performed.

Women aged 50–74 are actively invited for a free mammogram.

Women in their 40s and 75 years and over can also attend for free.

No referral required.

Undertaken at a BreastScreen Queensland clinic or mobile service. A multidisciplinary team of radiologists, surgeons, pathologists, physicians, nurses and radiographers are available.

Staff specialise in the screening and assessment of impalpable lesions.

Recall for screening at recommended intervals (normally every two years for women aged 50–74).

Where screening results are **normal**, the woman and her nominated general practitioner are notified within two weeks, either through mail or electronic means.

Where screening results are **abnormal**, the woman will be notified by phone and her nominated general practitioner will be notified following completion of her assessment.

Systematic data collection for monitoring, quality and morbidity and mortality outcomes for the population.

Diagnostic Mammography

(Public or Private Provider)

For diagnosing breast changes or abnormalities that may have been detected through BSE and/or clinical examination.

Emphasis is on individual benefit.

Services as required on referral from individual general or surgical practices.

Only for women with symptoms or changes. There may be an out-of-pocket expense.

Referral from individual general or surgical practice required.

Normally undertaken in a general diagnostic imaging practice (some specialist breast clinics have been established).

Staff experienced in a range of diagnostic procedures. Experience in breast cancer mainly with women presenting with palpable lesions/changes.

Recall and recommendation for further tests at the discretion of the general practitioner or surgeon.

Report to general practitioner or surgeon usually within a few days.

General practitioner or surgeon records data specific to the management of the individual woman.