

# Information about breast screening

## What is breast screening?

Breast screening is a way of detecting breast cancer early, when it is too small for you or your doctor to see or feel, and when treatment is simplest and most effective.

The NHS Breast Screening Programme currently invites women aged between 50 and 70, who are registered with a GP, for a mammogram (x-ray of the breasts) every three years. You should receive your first invitation by your 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Some older and younger women are also being invited as part of a study of screening in different age groups.

It is estimated that breast screening saves the lives of 1,300 women in England every year.

## Your breast screening appointment

The West of London Breast Screening Service provides free screening to women registered with GP practices in the Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea areas. Most appointments are held at St Mary's Hospital and invitations are sent out approximately three weeks before the appointment date. You can change the time, date or location of your appointment by calling **020 3313 6644** or via [www.westlondonbreastscreening.nhs.uk](http://www.westlondonbreastscreening.nhs.uk). We have five screening clinics in west London and we offer appointments on Saturdays and some evenings.

If you are aged 53 or over and have not had a breast screen within the past three years, please call us on the telephone number above to arrange an appointment.

Women over 70 are still entitled to be screened although they will not automatically be invited. If you have not been screened in last three years, please contact us make an appointment.

## What will happen during your appointment?

During your appointment a female radiographer will take two x-rays of each of your breasts. For each x-ray, your breast will be compressed between two special plates for a few seconds. Having a mammogram only takes a few minutes, but your appointment may last up to 30 minutes.

Your x-rays will then be looked at by two specialist consultants. You can expect to receive your results by post within two to three weeks of your appointment. You may be asked to come back to our assessment clinic for further tests. For the majority of women attending this clinic nothing of concern will be found.

If you would like more information about breast screening or if you have any questions go to [www.westlondonbreastscreening.nhs.uk](http://www.westlondonbreastscreening.nhs.uk) or call **020 3313 6644**.

**Remember...**

**Breast screening saves lives.**