

The Trust has been following the **guidance** of the National NHS Breast Screening Service on this recall exercise and has provided information on its website for women who want to know more:

[www.ouh.nhs.uk](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk)

If you have any additional questions or **concerns** then a help/advice line has been established and can be reached on:

01865 227000

**Useful links:**

[www.breastcancercare.org.uk](http://www.breastcancercare.org.uk)

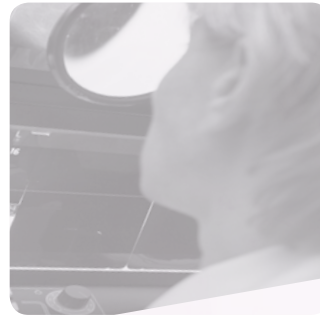
[www.breakthrough.org.uk](http://www.breakthrough.org.uk)

[www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk](http://www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk)

[www.cancerresearchuk.org](http://www.cancerresearchuk.org)

[www.macmillanconnected.org.uk](http://www.macmillanconnected.org.uk)

[www.nhs.uk/conditions](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions)



[www.ouh.nhs.uk](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk)



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Recall of women  
for further assessments

**Oxfordshire  
Breast Screening Service**

[www.ouh.nhs.uk](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk)

**AUGUST 2014**

**Through the National NHS Breast Screening Service (NBSS) all women aged between 50 and 70 are invited for breast screening every three years. In Oxfordshire this service is offered through the Oxfordshire Breast Screening Service (OBSS) which is provided by the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust.**

In Oxfordshire around one in every sixteen women who have initial screening mammograms are then invited back for assessment and possibly more tests. This can involve further mammograms, biopsies or breast ultrasound. If nothing unusual is found then the woman is invited back for a mammogram in three years' time. If there are concerns about a screening mammogram then a woman is invited for further tests through the 'assessment process' at the Churchill Hospital.

## Review

Mammograms are carried out by OBSS and are read by radiologists at the Oxford University Hospitals. Our service and performance is regularly monitored externally and internally.

Through a recent internal review we identified five cases where women had presented with cancer before their next interval screening.

This in itself would not have been unusual as no screening is 100% accurate in detecting all breast abnormalities and it is possible that some abnormalities develop later that were not apparent at the time of screening. However, in the case of these women, we believe that it is possible these cancers might have been detected earlier had some additional tests been carried out at the time of assessment. All five cases involved a follow-up assessment.

The identification of these cases has triggered focused, and then wider, investigation. After consultation with, and in collaboration with the NBSS, the Trust has carried out a review of a total of 626 cases. Although the review has found good practice for over 95% of women assessed, there are cases where we want to undertake further tests.

**We have identified 30 women for whom additional tests are required and we have written to these women offering urgent appointments.**

## Breast screening service

We would like to reassure women that there are no concerns about how regular screening mammograms are carried out by OBSS.

Women who had assessments between 2011 and 2014 and have not received a letter inviting them for further tests need not worry or do anything further until their next three year interval screening appointment.

We know that this information may cause anxiety but if you or someone you know has been contacted and invited for further testing please do not assume that this is a cause for serious concern.

We expect that the number of women recalled who actually have a significant abnormality requiring treatment will be very small although we appreciate that even one case is too many for the individual concerned.

Steps have been taken to ensure that this kind of situation cannot happen again in the future. This includes requiring that all tests performed during the assessment appointment are reviewed by two different radiologists before women are contacted with the results.

**There are no concerns about the overall quality of the OBSS screening service.**

It is monitored by external assessors who rate it as a unit which performs well and women can be confident about the service they receive.

The Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust deeply regrets the anxiety this recall exercise has caused.