

Breast Screening in Manchester

The NHS Breast Screening Programme provides free breast screening every three years for all women in the UK aged 50 and over. Around one-and-a-half million women are screened in the UK each year. The NHS Breast Screening Programme is phasing in an extension of the age range of women eligible for breast screening to those aged 47 to 73 starting in 2010. This will be completed in 2012.

Because the programme is a rolling one, which invites women from GP practices in turn, not every woman will receive an invitation as soon as she is 50 (or 47 from 2012). But she will receive her first invitation before her 53rd birthday. Once women reach the upper age limit for routine invitations for breast screening, they are encouraged to make their own appointment.

The NHS Breast Screening Programme is now almost 25 years old and rates of cancers detected have risen steadily. It is estimated that the programme saves around 1400 lives each year in England (i) and that there is a 35% reduction in mortality from breast cancer among screened women aged 50-69 (ii).

That's the good news! The less good news is that in Manchester we have a very patchy uptake of screening invitations (the uptake rate in Manchester is around 62-63% - the national target is 70%) so we need to have a big push on getting invited women to attend.

Many local women of eligible age are currently being invited to attend their breast screening appointment at new digital mobile screening units in North & South Manchester.

Screening in the North Manchester General Hospital round began on Monday 1st August 2011. This is for women living, or who have their GP in the Cheetham, Crumpsall, Collyhurst and Higher Blackley areas. The screening will be provided at one of the new mobile digital screening units, which is based behind the Post Graduate Centre, located just by the main entrance to the Hospital. The screening round will run until the end of November 2011.

Breast Screening invitations are also being sent out to women who reside in the Northenden area, which covers the Northenden and Brooklands wards. The screening is taking place at Withington Community Hospital until the end of October 2011.

Currently the NHS Breast Screening Programme saves an estimated 1,400 lives each year in England. If you receive an appointment letter now or in the future, please don't miss out on this important opportunity!

For more information, please call 0161 291 4444 or visit the website:
www.breast-screening.uhsm.nhs.uk.

The Public Health Development Service Health Information Library & Resource Library has a selection of new resources to promote breast screening and you can download factsheets about the Manchester screening service, translated into 12 community languages. Visit www.manchesterpublichealthresources.nhs.uk/

You can also access national cancer screening resources from www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/breastscreen/publications/ia-02.html

i) Screening for Breast Cancer in England: Past and Future NHS Cancer Screening Programmes, 2006 (NHSBSP Publication No 61)

(ii) 7th handbook on Cancer Prevention, IARC, Lyons 2002