

## **Single Regional Booking System for Breast Assessment Patient Information**

Your GP has referred you to have breast assessment because you have a lump or other breast changes. Most people who are referred for assessment do not have breast cancer, fewer than 1 in 10 people will be diagnosed with breast cancer.

### **Where does Breast Assessment take place?**

We want to ensure you are seen as quickly as possible no matter where you live. Most people will still be seen in their nearest hospital, but if there is a shorter waiting time, you could be offered an appointment in any of the hospitals listed below.

- **Altnagelvin Area Hospital** (Western Trust)
- **Antrim Area Hospital** (Northern Trust)
- **Belfast City Hospital** (Belfast Trust)
- **Craigavon Area Hospital** (Southern Trust)
- **Ulster Hospital Dundonald** (South Eastern Trust)

You can choose whether you want to travel to an appointment or wait for an appointment in your nearest hospital.

### **What happens next?**

The Regional booking office will ring you to offer appointment options. If you are offered an appointment that is not in your nearest hospital and you cannot travel, please tell the member of staff you are speaking to. They will advise you when the next available appointment in your nearest hospital is.

Once an appointment has been agreed with you, you will receive a confirmation letter with details of the time and location and a hospital map.

### **What happens if I cannot attend my appointment?**

If you cannot attend your appointment, please ring the booking office to cancel and get a new appointment. It is important to tell the booking office you cannot attend, so the appointment can be offered to someone else.

If you do not attend an appointment that you have accepted you may not be offered another appointment without a new referral from your GP.

## What happens at your assessment appointment?

At the breast assessment service, you will be assessed by a breast specialist and if required will have a scan (mammogram or ultrasound), or a biopsy (taking a small sample for testing) on the same day.

## What happens if I need more tests or treatment?

Some people need more tests, so may need a second appointment in the hospital where you were initially assessed.

If you have had a **biopsy and require treatment**, your results and treatment will be arranged at your local hospital.

## The Central Booking Office for Regional Breast Assessment

The Central Booking office phone number is 02890 550 400. When the office calls, this number will show up on your phone, not as a withheld number.

## Help with Transport

**Hospital's travel costs scheme:** You may be able to get financial help from the Hospital Travel Costs Scheme if you are on a low income. You can read more about this here – [Hospital Travel Costs Scheme | nidirect](#)

**Patient Transport Service:** In certain circumstances, eligible patients may be entitled to non-urgent transport to hospitals via the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service [Patient Transport Service](#). Please contact your GP once you have received your appointment. Your GP will then assess your medical need and decide if you require ambulance transport.