

# NHS breast screening

## Registering with a GP practice

All women aged 50 up to their 71st birthday are invited for breast screening every 3 years if they are registered with a GP practice. First invitations to breast screening are sent sometime between your 50th and 53rd birthdays.

If you want to be screened, you need to register with a GP practice. It is easy to register, and you should be able to register with a GP practice of your choice. A GP practice cannot refuse to register you if you have no form of identification or because you do not have a fixed address.

Breast screening invitation and result letters are sent by post. If you cannot register with your own address, you need to think about how you can receive these letters. If you are unable to provide an address, the GP practice can register you using its own address. This means you will have to collect your letters from there.

If you have been refused registration at a GP practice because you have no fixed address, contact the NHS England customer contact centre on 0300 311 22 33 or email [england.contactus@nhs.net](mailto:england.contactus@nhs.net)

### How to register

Full information on how to register with a GP is available at:

[www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/gps/how-to-register-with-a-gp-surgery/](http://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/gps/how-to-register-with-a-gp-surgery/)

Specific information is also available about how to register if you are:

- homeless  
(<https://assets.nhs.uk/prod/documents/how-to-register-with-a-gp-homeless.pdf>)
- from a Gypsy, Traveller or Roma community  
(<https://assets.nhs.uk/prod/documents/how-to-register-with-a-gp-gypsy-traveller-roma-communities.pdf>)
- an asylum seeker or refugee  
(<https://assets.nhs.uk/prod/documents/how-to-register-with-a-gp-asylum-seekers-and-refugees.pdf>)

### Getting a breast screening appointment

Once you are registered with a GP, it will take about 30 days before your information is available to the local breast screening service.

You can then contact your local breast screening service to ask about an appointment. They will advise you if you are due (or overdue) for screening, and book you an appointment if you are.

Contact details for all breast screening services are available at:

**[www.nhs.uk/breastscreening](http://www.nhs.uk/breastscreening)**

Your GP practice may also be able to give you the details of your local service.

When you are due for screening, the NHS Breast Screening Programme sends you an invitation letter and information about the breast screening process. You can read our breast screening information at **[www.gov.uk/phe/breast-screening-leaflet](http://www.gov.uk/phe/breast-screening-leaflet)**

Once you have had screening, your results will arrive by post within 3 weeks after your appointment. The results are sent to the address you have provided to your GP. It is important you make sure your GP always has up to date details for you.

## **Further tests**

Some women who have breast screening are called back for more tests. If this is the case for you, it will be explained in your results letter along with details of your new appointment.

## **More information**

The NHS screening programmes use personal information from your NHS records to invite you for screening at the right time. Public Health England also uses your information to ensure you receive high quality care and to improve the screening programmes. Find out more about how your information is used and protected, and your options, at **[www.gov.uk/phe/screening-data](http://www.gov.uk/phe/screening-data)**

Find out how to opt out of screening at **[www.gov.uk/phe/screening-opt-out](http://www.gov.uk/phe/screening-opt-out)**

---

This information was created by Public Health England (PHE) on behalf of the NHS.

© Crown copyright 2021

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0. To view this licence, visit the open government licence website. Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

First published: February 2021

This version: February 2021

PHE publications gateway number: GW-1977