



England

Breast Screening Resources

**North-West: Cheshire and Merseyside & Lancashire
and South Cumbria**

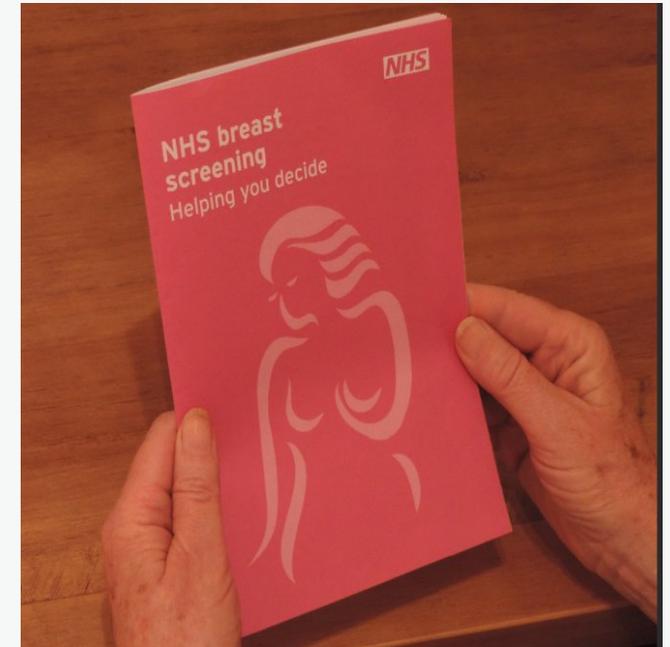
January 2026

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What is the Breast Screening Programme

Aim of the Programme:

About 1 in 7 women in the UK are diagnosed with breast cancer during their lifetime. If it's detected early, treatment is more successful and there's a good chance of recovery. Breast screening aims to find breast cancers at an early stage when they are too small to see or feel.

Who is eligible for screening?

- Breast screening is offered to women aged 50 to their 71st birthday in England
- Women aged 71 and over can request screening but will not automatically be invited
- Transgender (trans) women and non-binary people assigned male at birth who are registered with a GP as female and trans men and non-binary people assigned female at birth who are registered with a GP as female are invited for screening. Trans women and non-binary people assigned male at birth who are registered with a GP as male and trans men and non-binary people assigned female at birth who are registered with a GP as male are not routinely invited for breast screening but can request screening. (Please see NHS population screening: information for trans and non-binary people - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) for more detail)

Eligible people are invited for screening every three years. Breast screening providers invite people for screening by GP practice and therefore depending on where a GP practice is in the provider's screening round, an individual may not receive their first invite until their 53rd birthday.

An earlier invitation can be initiated at the woman's request once she has reached the screening age.

Who is not eligible for screening?

- people who have had a both breasts removed.

What is the Breast Screening Programme

The Screening Test

- A breast X-ray called a mammogram is used to look for signs of cancer.
- Each breast is pressed firmly between the plates of an X-ray machine for a few seconds. The pressure is needed to get good images and to reduce the radiation dose.
- The test will be carried out by a specially trained female mammographer.
- Some say having a mammogram is uncomfortable and a few may find it painful, but the discomfort should pass quickly. If a patient is put off from a previous painful experience, they can request limited amount of pressure be applied.
- Breast screening usually involves 2 X-rays of each breast. People who have implants are offered the choice of additional X-rays, so the mammographer can see as much breast tissue as possible.
- For most people the mammograms will show no signs of cancer. If changes are seen on the X-rays, the person will be recalled to an assessment clinic for more tests which will include: a breast examination, more X-rays or ultrasound scans and they may also have a biopsy (a small sample of tissue is taken from the breast with a needle).



Useful Contacts for Cheshire & Merseyside and Lancashire & South Cumbria

Team	Contact Email
NHSE North West Screening & Immunisation Team (general enquiries)	england.nwsit@nhs.net
Cheshire & Stockport Breast Screening Programme	ecn-tr.breastappts@nhs.net
East Lancashire Breast Screening Programme	breastscreening.elht@nhs.net
Liverpool Sefton & Knowsley Breast Screening Programme	bscreening@liverpoolft.nhs.uk
North Lancashire & South Cumbria Breast Screening Programme	Michelle.Satkowski@mbht.nhs.uk
South Lancashire Breast Screening Programme	BSUAppointments@wwl.nhs.uk
Warrington Halton St Helens & Knowsley Breast Screening Programme	whh.bsteam@nhs.net
Wirral & Chester Breast Screening programme	wih-tr.breastscreening@nhs.net coch.filmreading@nhs.net

Breast Screening Improving Uptake Officers Cheshire & Merseyside and Lancashire & South Cumbria

Breast Screening Improving Uptake Officers	Contact Email
Sarah Howson-Probert Cheshire & Stockport Breast Screening Programme	sarah.howson-probert2@nhs.net
Sanam Taj East Lancashire Breast Screening Programme	sanam.taj@elht.nhs.uk
Alicia Shipperlee Liverpool Sefton & Knowsley Breast Screening Programme	Alicia.Shipperlee@liverpoolft.nhs.uk
Katy Birch North Lancashire & South Cumbria Breast Screening Programme	Katy.Birch@mbht.nhs.uk
Janet Barrett South Lancashire Breast Screening Programme	Janet.Barrett@wwl.nhs.uk
Caitlin O'Brien Warrington Halton St Helens & Knowsley Breast Screening Programme	caitlin.obrien@nhs.net
Michelle Leatherbarrow Wirral & Chester Breast Screening programme	m.leatherbarrow1@nhs.net

**Video - Breast Screening
Improving Uptake Officers:**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ClxFrSWIQdryFdjxsKlinSukaaEQoHoW/view?usp=sharing>

NW resources and reports



Anyone with an NHS email can set up an FutureNHS account

- **NHSE have a lot of resources on their FutureNHS page accessed here:** [NHSE North West Public Health Commissioning Team \(S7a Screening and Immunisation Programmes\) - FutureNHS Collaboration Platform](#)
- **NW Care Co-ordinators Toolkit:** [North West Care Co-ordinator toolkit Improving Uptake of NHS Screening Programmes - NHSE North West Public Health Commissioning Team \(S7a Screening and Immunisation Programmes\) - FutureNHS Collaboration Platform](#)
- **NW Disability Report:** [Disability Report - NHSE North West Public Health Commissioning Team \(S7a Screening and Immunisation Programmes\) - FutureNHS Collaboration Platform](#)
- **NW Learning Disability Toolkit:** [2025.26_NHSE NW_Learning Disability Toolkit_Cancer Screening - NHSE North West Public Health Commissioning Team \(S7a Screening and Immunisation Programmes\) -FutureNHS Collaboration Platform](#)
- **NW Cervical Screening Resource Pack:** [2025 Cervical Screening Resource Pack - NHSE North West Public Health Commissioning Team \(S7a Screening and Immunisation Programmes\) – Futures](#)
- **NW Bowel Cancer Screening Resource Pack:** [2025 Bowel Cancer Screening Resource Pack - NHSE North West Public Health Commissioning Team \(S7a Screening and Immunisation Programmes\) - Futures](#)

National Breast Screening Programme Guidance

- [Breast screening: programme overview - GOV.UK](#)
- [Breast screening: professional guidance - GOV.UK](#)
- [Breast screening: care pathway - GOV.UK](#)
- [Breast screening programme: standards - GOV.UK](#)
- [Breast screening pathway requirements - GOV.UK](#)
- [Position statement on breast density in the NHS Breast Screening Programme - GOV.UK](#)
- [Breast screening: partial or incomplete mammography - GOV.UK](#)
- [Breast screening: breast implant guidelines - GOV.UK](#)
- [Breast screening: high risk women - GOV.UK](#)
- [Breast screening: information leaflets - GOV.UK](#)



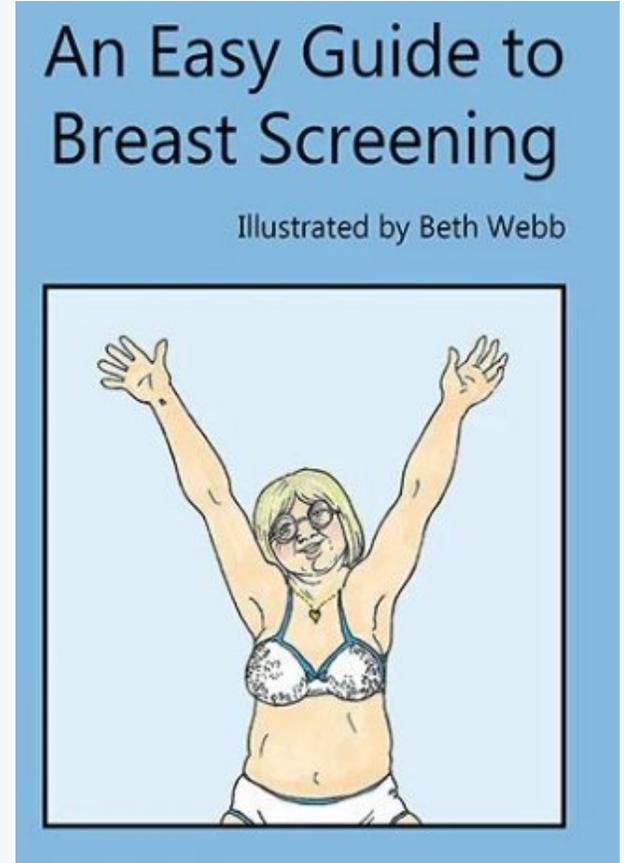
Improving Access and Uptake



- [Breast screening: reducing inequalities - GOV.UK](#)
- [Breast screening: identifying and reducing inequalities - GOV.UK](#)
- [Breast screening: easy guide - GOV.UK](#)
- [Your guide to NHS breast screening - GOV.UK](#)
- [NHS population screening: access for all - GOV.UK](#)
- [Breast screening: women not registered with a GP practice - GOV.UK](#)

Information and Leaflets in easy read and accessible formats

- *Includes easy read invitation letter template.*
- [Breast screening: easy guide - GOV.UK](#)
- [NHS breast screening: accessible format informed choice letter content - GOV.UK](#)
- [Free stories & resources — Beyond Words](#)
- [Do The Test - GO FOR IT! on Vimeo](#) Video created alongside women with a learning disability aiming to take the fear out of going for breast screening
- [NHS population screening: access for all - GOV.UK](#)
- [Health and Care of People with Learning Disabilities: Experimental Statistics: 2016 to 2017 - NHS England Digital](#)



Information and Leaflets (including in other languages)

- [Your guide to NHS breast screening - GOV.UK](#)

This information explains NHS breast screening and why it is offered. It is available in English and 30 language translations.

- [British Sign Language \(BSL\) signed content: Taking part in NHS breast screening - GOV.UK](#)

You can watch a British Sign Language version of NHS breast screening

- [Audio transcript: Your guide to NHS breast screening podcast - GOV.UK](#)

A simple animation showing screening tests offered to women throughout their lives, including breast screening, is available:

- English: [Population screening explained - GOV.UK](#)
- Urdu, Somali, Romanian, Portuguese, Polish, Mandarin, Lithuanian, Latvian, French, Bengali: [Lifetime screening animations on Vimeo](#)

English [العربية](#)
[български](#)
[বাংলা](#) [Deutsch](#) [Ελληνικά](#)
[Español](#) [فارسی](#) [Français](#)
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[Shqip](#) [தமிழ்](#) [Türkçe](#)
[Українська](#) [اردو](#) [简体中文](#)
[繁體中文 \(臺灣\)](#)

Information for lesbian, gay and transgender people

- [NHS population screening: information for transgender people - GOV.UK](#)
- [NHS population screening: information for trans and non-binary people - GOV.UK](#)
- [Trans and non-binary cancer screening | Cancer Research UK](#)
- [Breast screening for trans and non-binary people.pdf](#)



- <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2024/sep/19/trans-people-england-missing-vital-cancer-screening>
- <https://www.health.com/gender-diverse-transgender-people-cancer-screening-8668665>

Other Useful Links

- [What happens at your breast screening appointment | NHS](#) NHS.UK has published a new video showing patients what to expect when they attend their breast screening (mammogram) appointment
- [Breast screening \(mammogram\) – NHS](#)
- [Who breast screening is for – NHS](#)
- [Breast screening for women aged 71 or over - GOV.UK](#)
- [Breast screening: awareness posters - GOV.UK](#)
- [Breast screening: information leaflets - GOV.UK](#)