

Breast screening for BRCA1, BRCA2, PALB2 and TP53 patients

You have been referred for annual breast screening (mammography and/or MRI) as you carry a gene that gives you an increased risk of breast cancer (*BRCA1* or *BRCA2*, *PALB2* or *TP53*). The NHS High Risk Breast Screening Programme (NHSBSP) provides this breast screening - it is not available at The Royal Marsden. We will send you a copy of the referral so you have the contact details of your NHSBSP centre. The centre will be in touch with you directly about your breast screening appointment.

Breast screening appointments

Your NHSBSP appointments will be for breast screening only. The appointment does not routinely include a review with a breast clinician. If you are concerned about a breast lump or other breast symptom, please arrange to see your GP for a clinical examination. Your GP will refer you to a breast clinic urgently if the symptom or lump requires further assessment.

Your annual NHSBSP appointments are not usually scheduled 12 months in advance. You will be offered an appointment near the date you are due for screening. If you are concerned that you have not been given an appointment, please contact your NHS breast screening service directly to enquire.

If you are diagnosed with breast cancer through breast screening, you will be referred to a breast cancer team for treatment and support.

What breast screening is recommended and at what age should it start?

The age at which breast screening starts depends on the gene and the family history. This is summarised in the table overleaf:



Gene	Age	Annual mammography	Annual MRI
<i>BRCA1</i> or <i>BRCA2</i> or <i>PALB2</i>	25 to 29	No	Depends on family history - the genetics team will advise
	30 to 39	No	Yes
	40 to 50	Yes	Yes
	51 to 70	Yes	Depends on breast density
	71 and onwards	Requires self-referral	No
<i>TP53</i>	20 to 70	No	Yes
	71 and onwards	No	Requires self-referral

The NHS High Risk Breast Screening Programme stops routine invitations at age 71. There is an option to continue with annual breast screening after the age of 71 on an 'opt in' basis.

The Genetics Unit

If you have a genetic question, please call our team on 0208 661 3375. We can discuss options for risk-reducing surgery or testing in the extended family. If you wish to discuss risk-reducing breast surgery, the genetics unit will refer you to a breast surgeon. Discussing the surgery with a breast surgeon ensures you have all the information to aid your decision-making. There is no obligation to go ahead with the surgery.

Further information

The websites below provide further information on breast screening and risk-reducing breast surgery.

NHS Breast Screening Programme

www.nhs.uk/conditions/breast-cancer-screening/Pages/Introduction.aspx

The Royal Marsden Cancer Genetics Unit

www.royalmarsden.nhs.uk/our-consultants-units-and-wards/clinical-units/cancer-genetics-unit

Macmillan: Risk-reducing breast surgery

www.macmillan.org.uk/cancer-information-and-support/worried-about-cancer/causes-and-risk-factors/risk-reducing-breast-surgery

