

### Further Information

Please contact the Patient Pathway Coordinator, Ms Naishelle Samuel, on 0207 288 3888 for appointment and oncology queries.

Also, you can visit the Macmillan information centre (main entrance of The Whittington Hospital) for further information.

### Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a compliment, complaint or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or [whh-tr.whitthealthPALS@nhs.net](mailto:whh-tr.whitthealthPALS@nhs.net)

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please contact us on 020 7288 3182. We will try our best to meet your needs.

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## Why have I been referred urgently to the breast clinic

### A patient's guide



### **Your appointment for a breast symptom**

Your general practitioner (GP) has asked for you to be seen urgently by a breast specialist. We are committed to ensure you are given an appointment to come and see a breast specialist within two weeks.

### **So why has my GP referred me?**

Your GP has referred you so that a specialist can assess your breast symptoms. They may have re-assured you, but at the same time it was felt that you must be seen by a specialist. We recognise this need and aim to give all patients with breast symptoms an appointment within two weeks so that your mind can be put at rest and any concerns or anxieties you may have can be addressed as soon as possible.

### **Does this mean there is something wrong?**

The vast majority of patients referred this way do not have any serious underlying conditions. However, it is important that we find any conditions that could need prompt treatment.

If you are worried about your appointment, please contact your GP.

### **Your appointment**

Hopefully you will have spoken to the hospital appointments booking team to agree the enclosed appointment time. By accepting the first available appointment time and attending on the day, you will ensure that your health is looked after in a timely fashion.

If we were unable to contact you by telephone we will have allocated you the next available appointment. Please try your best to attend this. If you are unable to attend, then please contact the appointments team as soon as possible so that you can be allocated another convenient appointment within the two-week period following your GP's request.

### **What do I need to do now?**

Once you have agreed your breast appointment, it is important that you attend it, so that your care is not delayed.

Please follow any specific instructions included in your enclosed appointment letter.

If you do not attend your hospital appointment more than once, you will be referred back to your GP. This is so that someone else can have the appointment.

### **What will happen at the hospital?**

You will have a consultation with a specialist doctor which will include a clinical examination. Feel free to bring someone with you to the consultation if you want to. After the consultation, you may be asked to stay for some diagnostic tests; all this will be explained to you in detail by the doctor and nurse. We try and get most tests done in a single visit, so it could take as long as a whole morning or afternoon.

### **Parking**

Please note that local parking is limited and you should consider using public transport in case the time you are in clinic for may exceed the allotted parking time.

### **Rescheduling your appointment**

If you need to reschedule your appointment, please contact the appointments booking team directly on the telephone number on the enclosed appointment letter.