



Having more tests

A Plain English Story



Emer gets a letter in the post from BreastCheck.

The letter has the results of her mammogram.

A copy of the letter is sent to Emer's doctor.

The letter says that Emer's mammogram is not normal.

She needs to have more tests.

She will go to a BreastCheck clinic for these tests.

The letter says where to go and when to go.

You can use public transport, for example, a bus, to get to the BreastCheck clinic.

There are accessible parking spaces outside most BreastCheck clinics too.

BreastCheck buildings are accessible.

There is a ramp to get into the BreastCheck building.

On the day of the appointment, Emer goes to the BreastCheck clinic.

She presses a button to get into the building.

Some people feel nervous when they are called for more tests.

Emer can bring a friend with her for support if she wants.

Emer gives her name to the person at the reception desk.

Emer is given some information to read.

Emer sits in the waiting room.

She reads the information.

She listens for her name.

Emer's name is called.

She meets a member of staff from BreastCheck.

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This staff member explains what will happen at the appointment.

Emer can ask questions.

The staff member brings Emer to a changing room.

The staff member gives Emer a gown to change into.

Emer takes off her coat, top, and bra.

She puts on the gown.

Then, she goes back to the waiting room.

Next, Emer meets the staff member that will take a test, called a mammogram.

This person is a radiographer.

The radiographer tells Emer about the test.

Emer can ask questions if she wants to.

Please talk to us if you need to have a support person in the room with you when you have the mammogram.

The mammogram takes photos of Emer's breasts. These are called x-rays.

During the mammogram, Emer stands tight to the machine.

The radiographer puts her in the right place.

It might take time to get all the extra photos that are needed.

Emer sits or stands in different positions.

This test might be a bit sore, or it might be a bit uncomfortable to stand a certain way.

When the test is over, Emer goes back to the waiting room.

The radiographer checks the x-ray photos of Emer's breasts.

The next test is called an ultrasound.

Emer meets the doctor that will do this test.

She is asked for her name and date of birth.

Emer lies on the bed for the ultrasound.

The doctor puts gel on Emer's breast. This might feel a bit cold.

The doctor uses a special machine to see Emer's breasts.

She presses a small probe to Emer's breast.

It does not hurt.

The ultrasound machine shows inside Emer's breast.

Please talk to us if you need a support person with when you have the ultrasound.

The doctor checks the results of Emer's ultrasound.

If everything is normal on the mammogram and ultrasound, Emer can go home.

If it is not normal, the doctor explains that Emer will need another test.

Emer needs another test, called a biopsy.

A biopsy is when a needle takes a very small piece of breast tissue.

The doctor tells Emer about the test.

Emer signs a consent form to say she agrees to have the biopsy.

Emer does not feel any pain, but she can feel the doctor working on her breast.

The doctor uses a needle to take a sample from Emer's breast.

This sample goes to the laboratory to check for cancer.

Most people that are called back for more tests do not have cancer.

The care assistant presses on the skin for a short time to make sure there is no bleeding.

The care assistant makes sure Emer is ok.

She explains that Emer will see the surgeon next.

A nurse brings Emer to a quiet room after the biopsy.
She explains how to manage the dressings and the small scar.

She tells Emer when to come back for the results of her biopsy.

This is usually one or two weeks later.

Emer meets a doctor, called a surgeon.

The surgeon examines her breasts.

The surgeon asks Emer questions and talks to her about her results.

Emer can ask questions too.

When Emer feels ready, she can change back into her own clothes.

A staff member shows her to the changing room.

Emer can go home.

She will get the results of this test in about a week.

A copy of the results will be sent to her doctor.

More information



www.breastcheck.ie

info@breastcheck.ie



Phone us free on 1800 45 45 55



The photo on the cover page was taken by Pauline Dennigan Photography.



Kerry Parents and Friends Association



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

