Glossary of Terminology

Scottish Breast Screening Programme

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Glossary

Assessment
The process a woman undergoes following an abnormal mammogram in order to obtain a definitive diagnosis.

Attendance rate
(See Uptake rate.)

Benign
Non-cancerous. Refers to tumours that grow slowly in one place and that, once removed by surgery, tend not to recur.

Biopsy
The removal of a small piece of tissue from an organ or part of the body for laboratory examination. It is an important means of confirming or excluding a diagnosis of cancer from analysis of a fragment of the tissue sample.

Breast cancer
A malignant tumour of the breast. Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer in women.

Core biopsy
Removal, using a needle, of a piece of a breast tissue for diagnosis.

Diagnostic
Serving to identify and/or confirm a particular disease.

Diagnostic open biopsy
Surgical procedure to diagnose if cancer is present (note: usually a core biopsy/FNA procedure is used to determine whether cancer is present).

Ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS)
DCIS is an early form of breast cancer, where the cancer cells are only found inside the milk ducts ('in situ') and have not developed the ability to spread either outside the ducts into the breast tissue or to other parts of the body. Because the cancer
cells have not developed the ability to spread, DCIS may be described as a pre-cancerous, intraductal or non-invasive cancer.

**Early recall**
Invitation for the next screening episode that is earlier than the usual interval of 3 years. Early recall is normally 3 months, 6 months or 1 year. An early recall appointment is considered as 'non-routine'.

**Eligible women**
All women who are to be invited for breast screening. This currently includes all women aged 50-70 who are registered with a GP, and those women not registered with a GP but whom the screening programme is made aware of (e.g., women in long-stay institutions). Some women are excluded from routine invitation; for example, those who have had bilateral mastectomy or who have signed a disclaimer form to remove themselves from the Scottish Breast Screening Programme call-recall system.

**Fine needle aspiration (FNA)**
The withdrawal of fluid, containing cells, from the body by means of aspiration/suction using a fine needle. The samples obtained are used to provide information on the cells of tumours or cysts.

**GP referral**
The process whereby a GP has referred a woman for screening. A GP referral appointment is considered as 'non-routine'.

**Incident screen**
Any mammographic screen a woman has after her first screen. It can identify disease that has arisen since the previous screen.

**Invasive breast cancer**
Breast cancer that can or has spread from its site of origin.

**KC62 Performance Standards**
These are used to monitor and evaluate the performance of the SBSP against the UK-wide performance standards and targets. They include minimum performance standards and targets on uptake, cancer detection rates, referral for assessment and
early recall rates. The data required to measure the standards are generated from the KC62 Returns (see KC62 Returns).

**KC62 Returns**
The performance of the Scottish Breast Screening Programme (SBSP) is evaluated by comparing observed performance against targets. The KC62 Return is the main source of data used to evaluate the performance of the SBSP programme against these targets (see KC62 Performance Standards).

**Malignant**
Cancerous. Such tumours can invade and destroy surrounding tissue and have the capacity to spread. A tumour that is the result of such spread is known as 'secondary' or 'metastatic'.

**Mammography**
X-ray examination of the breast. Using low-energy X-rays, fine details of breast tissue can be visualised, particularly the presence of calcification or soft tissue masses, enabling the early diagnosis of breast cancer.

**Mammogram**
An X-ray film of the breast.

**National Health Service Breast Screening Programme (NHSBSP)**
The UK-wide programme of free population-based screening for breast cancer.

**National Services Division (NSD)**
The division of NHS National Services Scotland with responsibility for ensuring the provision of national screening programmes and specialist services on behalf of NHSScotland.

**Non-attenders**
Eligible people who do not attend following an invitation for screening.

**Non-invasive cancer**
(See Ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS).)

**Palpable**
Can be felt by hand.
**Preoperative tissue diagnosis**
A diagnosis made by examining tissue of the breast obtained by a non-operative procedure, the most common examples of which are fine needle aspiration (FNA) and core biopsy.

**Prevalent screen**
A woman's first mammographic screen.

**Quality Assurance Reference Centre (QARC)**
Collect and collate data about the performance and outcomes of the breast screening programme, organise QA visits, and provide support for the regional director of QA and the professional co-ordinators. The reference centre is the first point of contact for information about the breast screening programme.

**Recall**
The part of a screening system whereby a person is asked to attend a repeat screen or an assessment appointment. This includes routine recall and early recall.

**Routine appointment**
Includes women who have been invited by the screening programme to attend a standard appointment (which normally occurs once every three years). Routine appointments exclude early recall and GP/self-referral appointments.

**Routine recall**
Invitation for the next screening episode at the normal interval (once every 3 years).

**Scottish Breast Screening Programme (SBSP)**
The programme of free population-based screening for breast cancer in Scotland. The SBSP is commissioned by the National Services Division and the screening service is provided through six regional screening centres and 19 mobile screening units across Scotland.

**Scottish Breast Screening System (SBSS)**
The new SBSP IT system. Advancements in technology meant that mammographies can be taken with new digital machines. Full implementation of the digital system was achieved across Scotland by 1 March 2016.
Scottish Government Health Department (SGHD)
The Scottish Government Health Department is responsible for health policy and the administration of NHSScotland.

Screening
Examination of people with no symptoms to detect unsuspected disease.

Screening episode
A cycle of a person's screening events.

Self-referral
The process whereby a woman refers herself for screening. A self-referral appointment is considered as ‘non-routine’.

Standardised detection ratio (SDR)
The observed number of invasive cancers detected divided by the number expected, given the age distribution of the population.

Uptake rate
The proportion of women invited to a breast screening appointment who attend.