

When to recommend a breast screen

This document provides information about when to recommend a breast screen (screening mammogram) through BreastScreen Victoria versus when to refer to a diagnostic pathway.

	BreastScreen Victoria	Diagnostic services
	Screening mammogram	Diagnostic services
	For asymptomatic women*	For symptomatic women and men
Why	To reduce mortality rate from breast cancer in women aged 50 to 74.	To investigate breast changes and symptoms.
Who	Designed for women aged 50 to 74 (eligible from 40).	Any age.
Referral	No Medicare card or doctor's referral required.	Doctor's referral required.
Cost	Free.	Partial rebate from Medicare or bulk billed (must satisfy criteria).
When	Every two years or yearly depending on family history.	As required.
Tests	Breast screen (screening mammogram).	Other imaging techniques are available in addition to mammograms, specific to each case.
Results	Results sent to client and their doctor (with consent).	Results sent to referring doctor.

A small percentage of clients will be asked back to BreastScreen Victoria for additional testing after their breast screen. Any tests required for further assessment are free of charge.

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^{*}The BreastScreen Victoria program is for women, including eligible trans and gender diverse people.