

Referral Support Service

Breast

B03

Family History of Breast Cancer

Definition

Asymptomatic woman with family history of breast cancer.

Red flags

- Palpable breast lump.
- Any unilateral changes in skin, nipple or nipple discharge.
- **These require assessment and referral along appropriate pathways.**

Management

Take first- and second-degree family history.

Use of FH questionnaire will help to gather information about age, site of tumours, bilateral tumours or Ashkenazi Jew heritage.

Use the [2017 Family History Questionnaire](#) to assess the risk in primary care and, if referral to secondary care is indicated, to provide all the detail the specialists need to effectively prioritise patients.

Generally, the NICE guidance criteria for a further assessment in the Family History of Breast Cancer Clinic are:

- One first degree relative with breast cancer at < 40 years old.
- One first degree male relative with breast cancer at any age.
- One first degree relative with bilateral breast cancer where the first cancer was diagnosed at <50 years old.
- Two first degree or one first degree and one second degree relative diagnosed with breastcancer at any age.
- One first degree or second relative with breast cancer at any age plus one first or second degreerelative with ovarian cancer at any age (one of these should be a first degree relative).
- Three first or second-degree relatives on the same side of the family with breast cancer at anyage.
- If more than one relative is involved they should be on the same side of the family.

Women who do NOT meet the above criteria can be reassured that their risk of breast cancer is near to that of the general population. Advise breast awareness and to report any new diagnoses within the family.

Referral Information

Those meeting the above criteria should be referred to the Family History Clinic. ENSURE a completed FH questionnaire accompanies referral.

Other Considerations

If the above criteria are not met re FH of breast cancer- consider discussion with secondary care or referral to genetics if there is history of the following:

- bilateral breast cancer
- male breast cancer
- ovarian cancer
- Jewish ancestry
- sarcoma in a relative younger than age 45 years
- glioma or childhood adrenal cortical carcinomas
- complicated patterns of multiple cancers at a young age
- paternal history of breast cancer (2 or more relatives on the father's side of the family)

Patient information leaflets/ PDAs

[Family history risk assessment: Breast cancer in families | Breast Cancer Now](#)

References

[NICE Familial Breast Cancer CG164 updated Nov 2019](#)
[Breast Cancer Now](#)

Responsible Consultant: Miss Jenny Piper
Responsible GP: Dr Ruth Guest
No drugs in the guidance

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