

Referral Support Service

Breast

B08 **Nipple Discharge**

Definition

Unilateral or bilateral discharge from nipple.

Red flags

Unilateral discharge – whether blood stained or clear.
Any associated lump or nipple/skin changes.

Management

If age > 50 yrs and unilateral discharge needs 2WW referral.
If < 50yrs and unilateral discharge refer non urgently. Non-urgent referrals are still part of the “breast symptomatic pathway”. These are normally seen within two weeks.

Galactorrhoea – [see relevant guideline](#).

Information to Include in referral letter

Symptoms and duration.
Any Family history.
Relevant PMH.

BILATERAL discharge or Galactorrhoea does **NOT** require referral to Breast surgery.
In galactorrhoea patient should be referred to **Endocrinology**.

References

[NICE guideline 12 Suspected Cancer recognition and referral](#) updated Jan 2021.
[Breast Cancer Now](#).