SERVICE MONITORED

Mammogram service, Breast Test Wales. South East Wales Breast Screening Centre, 18 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF11 9LJ

DATE AND TIME

Wednesday 29th June 2011 commencing 10am.

MONITORING TEAM

Mrs Jill Davies,
Miss Margaret Davies,
Dr Cathy Kerby.

BREAST TEST WALES REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs Rosemary Johnson - Interim Head of Programme,
Mrs Kath Pegington - Superintendent Radiographer,
Mr Ceri Richards - Centre Coordinator,
Mrs Christine Tinkler - Head of Radiography.

PURPOSE OF VISIT.

To be updated on the modernisation of the mammography services of Breast Test Wales.

MODERNISATION OF MAMMOGRAPHY SERVICE OF BREAST TEST WALES.

Modernisation to incorporate digital mammography is taking place. Cardiff is one of four static centres who provide the service; the others are in Swansea, Llandudno and Wrexham. The majority of breast screening is done in the community on mobile x-ray mammography units which park in large car parks in supermarkets, council car parks or leisure centres. BTW has 10 units, five of which are based in Cardiff and visit sixty sites in SE Wales. Modernisation of the static centre in Swansea has commenced, after which digitisation of the screening process will be completed.

Cardiff will then be similarly modernised, and Llandudno and Wrexham will follow. It is anticipated that BTW will be completely digitised by mid 2012. Digitisation of the screening process will remove the requirement for bulky x-ray film, processors, chemicals, and associated machinery, freeing up valuable space that will be used for a sub-waiting area and a new assessment screening unit. The way digital films are read will also change, replacing the machinery to read analogue x-rays with digital monitors.

Cardiff centre at present is bright, clean, and well presented for patients. The building work required for modernisation is expected to take two months, followed by installation of the new equipment. When completed BTW will have a modern screening centre fit for the 21st Century serving the women of SE Wales. It is hoped to complete everything by the end of January 2012.

STAFF.

(1) A full complement of consultants and senior staff - radiologists, surgeons, histopathologists.
(2) 45 staff in Radiography - radiographers, assistant practitioners and helpers.

Updating of staff is undertaken "in house" with Cardiff University.

Sickness levels in staff are very low, and staff retention is good.

SCREENING.

Screening is offered 3-yearly to all women aged 50 to 70 years. The over-70's are not automatically invited but an appointment can be arranged every three years. Under 50's with a family history can be referred by their GP's or a geneticist, and screening for this group can start at 35 year of age. A family history must include two living relatives with breast cancer.

Screening uptake is 75%. The majority attend mobile screening units, an average of 50 patients per day per unit.

Uptake is lower in inner city areas and in ethnic groups.

Physical impairment: all mobile units have wheelchair access.

Learning disabilities: special care is used, and a pre-screening visit can be arranged. Special packs have been designed for this vulnerable group.

If abnormality is detected at screening the patient is recalled to a static centre for counselling and further tests.

PATIENTS' VIEWS.

No clinics were in operation during our visit.

MATTERS TO BE COMMENDED.

The dedication of all staff.

Proactive work undertaken in modernisation of the Breast Test Wales service, all funded by WAG.

Active promotion of services, especially for ethnic minority groups.

Proactive training of staff.

MATTERS OF CONCERN.

(1) Timing of the modernisation scheme should keep to schedule so that the Digitisation Programme is completed by June 2012 for Wales.

(2) Charging for parking mobile units at certain supermarkets.

RECOMMENDATION.

Monitor progress of modernisation.

Re-visit in one year.

We would like to thank the staff of BTW for their valuable time and for our interesting tour of the building.

Cathy Kerby