

Breast Assessment Program

What Is the Breast Assessment Program?

The Breast Assessment Program (BAP) is a fast-track program to quickly assess a suspected breast abnormality and expedite diagnosis and treatment.

Wait time for diagnosis is greatly reduced.

BAP is located with the Mammography department, and is part of Diagnostic Imaging, Level 1, Bluewater Health, Sarnia. You can reach the department at (519) 464-4515.

How Are You Referred to BAP?

There are three ways you could be referred to BAP.

1. If a new problem is found by either you or your primary care provider, your primary care provider can refer you to BAP. You will be notified of your appointment time by the Mammography department.
2. If a radiologist (a physician specialized in radiology) advises that further investigation is required based on your screening mammogram, you will be referred to BAP and notified of an appointment time.
3. If your mammogram has been done at another facility and an abnormality is detected, you may be referred to BAP.

What Happens at BAP?

You should arrive at the Mammography department 10 minutes prior to your appointment time for registration. Please expect to be here for a possible one to two hours.

The technologist will bring you into the room for your procedure. You may require mammography or ultrasound imaging or both. The radiologist will be reviewing your images and advising of next steps. The technologist will guide and support you through the process, and keep your family physician or nurse practitioner informed. If the result is negative you will be informed of this immediately. You may leave and your primary care provider will receive the report.

If the radiologist still has concerns after all follow-up imaging is reviewed, a biopsy may be suggested. This could be performed using ultrasound or mammography techniques. The biopsy may be performed same day, if time permits and you are agreeable, or be booked in for the next available opening.

Biopsy results are usually back within a few days. If the result is positive, your family physician or nurse practitioner will be contacted immediately and the report will be faxed. There would also be an immediate referral to the Cancer Care Assessment & Treatment Centre here at Bluewater Health.