

## DUBLIN NORTH EAST

Beaumont Hospital, Beaumont Road, Dublin 9.

T: 01 809 3932

Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Eccles Street, Dublin 7

T: 01 803 4269

## DUBLIN MID LEINSTER

St James Hospital, James's Street, Dublin 8.

T: 01 416 2192

St Vincents University Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin 4.

T: 01 221 3778

## HSE SOUTH

Cork University Hospital, Wilton, Cork.

T: 021 492 0189

Waterford Regional Hospital, Dunmore Road, Waterford.

T: 051 842 044

## HSE WEST

Limerick Regional Hospital, Dooradoyle, Limerick.

T: 061 482 832

University College Hospital, Newcastle Road, Galway T: 091 543446 (with additional outreach service delivery in Letterkenny).

T: 074 912 3737

EUROPA DONNA Ireland acknowledges the concerns of some local groups, but it is convinced by the evidence that patients with breast cancer have a much better chance of accurate diagnosis and survival if treated in specialist breast centres whose work is governed by the National Quality Assurance Standards for Symptomatic Breast Disease Services and is subject to regular review by HIQA. In February 2010 HQA published the Report of the National Quality Review Of Symptomatic Breast Disease Services in Ireland, covering all 8 centres. The full Report can be found on the HIQA website - [www.hiqa.ie](http://www.hiqa.ie)

## What everyone needs to know about Breast Cancer

Europa Donna Ireland has published other information leaflets:

*9 Things you should know about breast cancer* is an accessible introduction to breast cancer.

*The Irish Breast Cancer Charter* sets out 23 principles which centres should meet and which women should be entitled to.

*Breast cancer and fertility* was prepared by health care professionals with specialist knowledge and will help women who need information on the effect of breast cancer treatment on their fertility.

>>To get copies of the above contact us. The publications, along with more information (facts and figures, risk and support) are also on our website

[www.europadonnaireland.ie](http://www.europadonnaireland.ie)

## Any Queries?

We hope that this information is helpful, but if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us at:

Europa Donna Ireland  
P.O. Box 6602  
Dublin 8  
Tel: 01 4960198  
e-mail: [info@europadonnaireland.ie](mailto:info@europadonnaireland.ie)

## Europa Donna Ireland:

### The Irish Breast Cancer Campaign

One of 46 member countries of EUROPA DONNA - The European Breast Cancer Coalition.

#### Our vision

That women of all ages in Ireland will know what they can and should expect in terms of risk, diagnosis, treatment, recovery and support in order to improve early detection rates and survival rates.

#### Our mission

To bring the voice of the woman with experience of breast cancer

- To raising awareness of the need for screening and access for all women to best quality specialist centres, and
- To campaign for evidence-based, best practice health policy changes to ensure this happens.

[www.europadonnaireland.ie](http://www.europadonnaireland.ie)

# Specialist Breast Centres

Working for better breast cancer services nationwide



# Specialist Breast Cancer Centres

In September 2007, The Health Services Executive announced the location of 8 designated Specialist Cancer Centres in Ireland and confirmed that these centres will provide treatment for all forms of cancer, involving diagnostic, surgical, medical (systemic) and radiation oncology services.

Breast cancer services have now been transferred to the 8 centres, which are listed overleaf.

Diagnosis and surgery will take place in these Centres, as will the planning of individual treatment programmes. Chemotherapy will be provided at a hospital as close as possible to where you live.

## What happens next?

The majority of women referred to a Specialist Breast Centre do **NOT** have Breast Cancer. However, if a woman is diagnosed with Breast Cancer, then her treatment programme is planned at a Multidisciplinary Conference.

**Multidisciplinary Teams** have special expertise and training in breast cancer and are made up of

**Breast Surgeons** who specialise in breast diseases.

**Radiologists** who specialise in the study of X-Rays, including mammograms and ultra-sound scans.

**Pathologists** who examine breast tissue.

**Breast Care Nurses** who specialise in breast care.

**Medical Oncologists** specialising in the treatment of cancer by drug therapy (Chemotherapy).

**Radiation Oncologists** specialising in the treatment of cancer with radiation therapy.

Following the conference you will meet with the appropriate specialists to discuss your individual treatment plan. This may include a **Plastic Surgeon** if you need and wish to discuss reconstruction.

## Can I bring someone with me?

Yes, please feel free to bring someone with you; partners, family members or friends are welcome.

## What can I expect at these Centres?

Whatever your symptoms are you may have some or all of the following investigations. Together these are known as

### Triple Assessment

**Clinical Examination** This involves the surgeon or a member of his/her team taking a history of your symptoms and carrying out an examination of your breasts and underarm area.

**Radiology** This involves a mammogram (X-ray examination of the breast) and maybe an ultra-sound scan of your breast.

**Breast Tissue Sampling** This involves a doctor using a needle to remove a small sample of breast tissue for examination under a microscope.

## How soon will I know the results?

Results of the test may be available on the same day or may require a return visit to the clinic within two weeks.

## What is a Specialist Breast Centre?

A Specialist Breast Centre offers specialist services to women who have been referred by their doctors. International research has shown that diagnosis and treatment in specialised centres improve survival rates for women diagnosed with breast cancer by 25 to 30%. The centres must see a large number of patients in order that personnel maintain expertise. All doctors and nurses in specialist centres have specific training in dealing with breast disease. National Quality Assurance Standards have been developed and HIQA (Health Information and Quality Authority) accredits centres based on these standards.

## Where are these Centres located?

The centres are listed in this leaflet. You may also contact us or check our website. The centres are usually separate areas within hospitals and the people you meet there will all have special expertise in breast cancer.

## Why would I need to go to a Specialist Breast Centre?

If you have a problem with one or both of your breasts go to your doctor.

If you or your doctor are still concerned then your doctor should refer you to a Specialist Breast Centre. Problems that require urgent attention include a lump or thickening in the breast, changes in the surface of the breast including dimpling, orange peel appearance or any unusual change in size or texture, changes to the nipple such as recent inverted nipple, or discharge, especially if bloodstained.

Only 10% of women who go to a Specialist Breast Centre have cancer but it is very important that you get any symptom checked out by experts.