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Breast Referral Pathways

Dear ABS Members

I enclose a link to "[Urgent Cancer Diagnostic services during Covid-19](#)" which has recently been updated (V2.0 January 2021) and published by NHS England. I would draw your attention to page 17 on suspected breast cancer and the ways of assessing women considered to be at low risk of having breast cancer.

To help deliver these new pathways we have enclosed some links to digital information regarding breast pain information, which you may find helpful.

The first is a short 4 minute [YouTube video](#) that patients might find helpful and reassuring. You might share this with local GPs and suggest they share the link with patients that they see with breast pain:

The second link is for [written information on breast pain](#) for patients who prefer printed material or to supplement the YouTube clip. You might also like to share this with your GPs so they can either share the link or print off the leaflet for their patients with breast pain.

The third piece of information is a [paper on breast pain](#) from the British Journal of General Practice aimed at our GP colleagues which you might like to send to your colleagues in general practise, this gives more detailed information on breast pain and its management in primary care.

We hope this information is helpful and you might be able to use this at the point of referral, or send it out to the referring GP when you have seen a patient with breast pain with a view to encouraging them to adopt a different management pathway in the future. This might save an inappropriate 2WW cancer referral and save the patient a great deal of unnecessary stress and worry.

As this method of dealing with patients deemed to be at low risk of having a breast cancer is new, the academic and research committee are currently looking at way of assessing the efficacy of these new pathways being dealt with patients outside the traditional one stop clinic pathway. They hope to be in touch in the near future.

I hope you are all keeping well.

Kind regards

Julie Doughty
ABS President