



National Breast Cancer GP Referral Guideline



Disclaimer

'This guideline ("the Guideline") was developed by a multidisciplinary Guideline Development Group ("the Group") and is based upon the best clinical evidence available together with the clinical expertise of the Group members. The Guideline supersedes all previous HSE/NCCP breast cancer GP referral guidelines. The National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) is part of the Health Service Executive (HSE) and any reference in this disclaimer to the NCCP is intended to include the HSE. Please note, the Guideline is for guidance purposes only. The appropriate application and correct use of the Guideline is the responsibility of each health professional, as an autonomous practitioner, at all times. Each health professional should exercise his or her clinical judgement in deciding when and how to make a referral to a Symptomatic Breast Disease Clinic. In the event of any uncertainty as to the application and/or use of the Guideline or whether a referral should be made to a Symptomatic Breast Disease Clinic it is the responsibility of each health professional to seek further clarity from the appropriate clinician or specialist. The NCCP accepts no liability nor shall it be liable, whether arising directly or indirectly, to the user or any other third party for any claims, loss or damage resulting from any use of the Guideline.'



Introduction

The National Breast Cancer GP Referral Guideline has been developed to provide a clear pathway for women with suspected breast cancer to access the National Symptomatic Breast Disease Clinics. These guidelines are based on the best available evidence integrated with clinical expertise and patient values.

How to Refer

Patients with suspected breast cancer should be referred electronically to one of the Symptomatic Breast Disease Clinics. Electronic referrals are sent via Healthlink (www.Healthlink.ie) or by using any of the following Irish College of General Practitioner (ICGP) accredited software systems:

- Complete GP
- Helix Practice Manager
- HealthOne
- Socrates

List of Clinics

Beaumont Hospital, Dublin 9
Cork University Hospital
Letterkenny University Hospital
Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin 7
St. James's Hospital, Dublin 8
St. Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin 4
University Hospital Galway
University Hospital Limerick
University Hospital Waterford

Phone Numbers

(01) 809 3932
(021) 492 0189
(074) 9123 737
(01) 803 4269
(01) 416 2192
(01) 221 3778
(091) 543 446
(061) 482 832
(051) 842 044

Health and Lifestyle Tips



Do not smoke.
For advice, go to www.quit.ie
or phone 1800 201 203
to learn more.



Less is better, none is best.
For advice go to
www.askaboutalcohol.ie
to learn more.

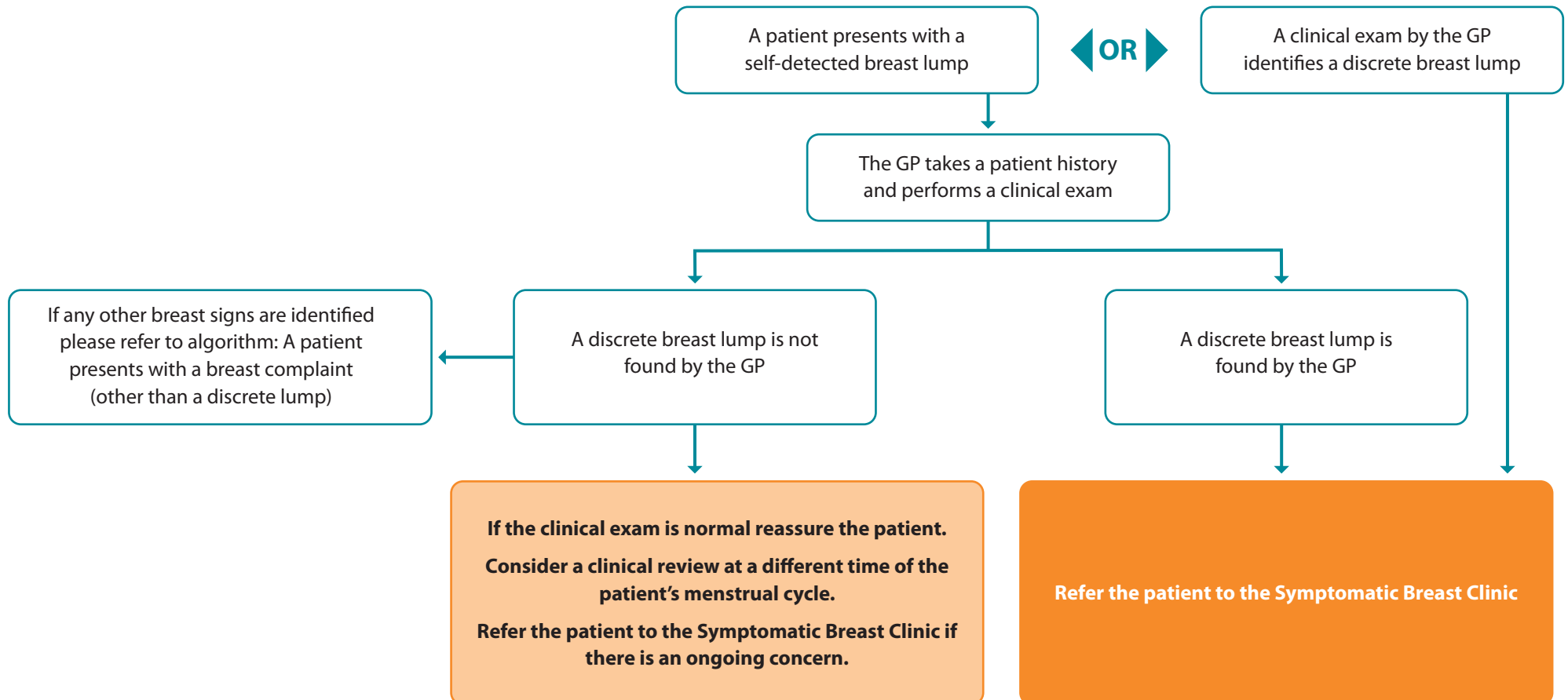


Diet and exercise –
be active everyday.
For advice go to www.hse.ie
to learn more.



Encourage the patient to check
their registration status with
BreastCheck if they are a woman
between the ages of 50 and 69.

A patient with a breast lump



A patient who presents with a breast complaint (other than a discrete breast lump)

The GP takes a patient history and performs a clinical exam

Breast / Axilla

Refer to the Symptomatic Breast Clinic

- Breast abscess
- Suspicious axillary lump
- Asymmetric focal nodularity that persists beyond one menstrual cycle
- Image-detected breast abnormality found on CT/MRI/breast imaging (the report and disk will be required for appointment)

Do not refer to the Symptomatic Breast Clinic

- Hidradenitis
- Axillary adiposity
- Gynaecomastia
- Costochondritis/musculo-skeletal pain

Nipple conditions

Refer to the Symptomatic Breast Clinic

- Unilateral bloody nipple discharge
- Unilateral spontaneous serous nipple discharge
- New and fixed nipple retraction
- Nipple eczema refractory to topical treatment

Do not refer to the Symptomatic Breast Clinic

- Nipple itch without an associated rash
- Non-bloody bilateral nipple discharge

Skin conditions

Refer to the Symptomatic Breast Clinic

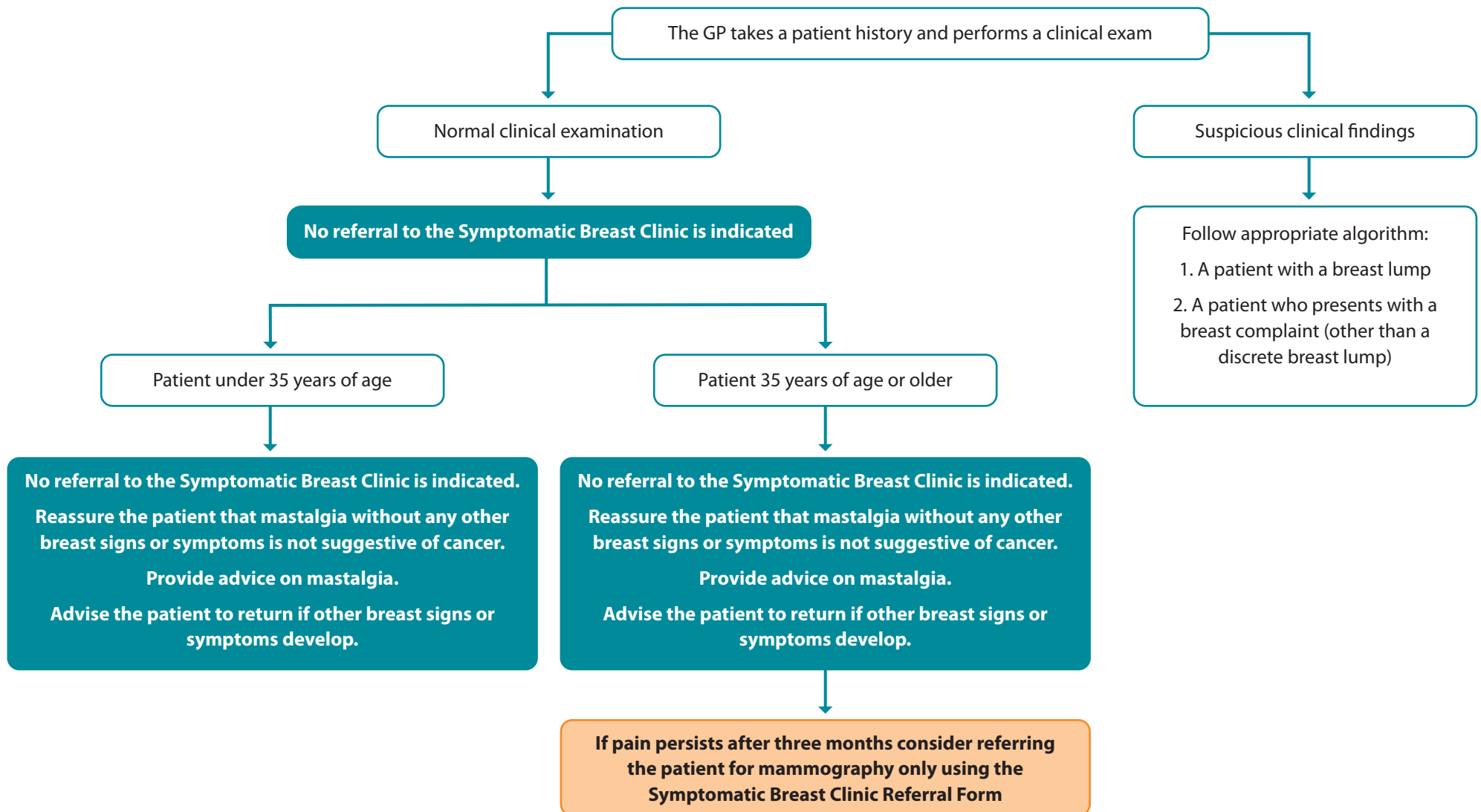
- Skin dimpling
- Peau d'orange
- Nipple eczema refractory to topical treatment
- Breast abscess

Do not refer to the Symptomatic Breast Clinic

- Nipple itch without an associated rash
- Sebaceous cysts
- Skin lesions
- Hidradenitis

A patient who presents with a breast complaint (other than a discrete breast lump)

A patient who presents with mastalgia (breast pain) alone





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