



**INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR  
GENERAL PRACTITIONERS**

**REFERRAL GUIDELINES FOR SUSPECTED CANCER**

[www.nice.org.uk/CG027](http://www.nice.org.uk/CG027)

## BREAST CANCER

Referral guidelines for suspected cancer

### URGENT REFERRALS

Of any age

With a discrete, hard lump with fixation, with or without skin tethering

Who are female, aged 30 years and older

With a discrete lump that persists after their next period, or presents after menopause

Who are female, aged younger than 30 years

With a lump that enlarges

With a lump that is fixed and hard

In whom there are other reasons for concern such as family history

### URGENT REFERRALS

Of any age

With previous breast cancer, who present with a further lump or suspicious symptoms

With unilateral eczematous skin or nipple change that does not respond to topical treatment

With nipple distortion of recent onset

With spontaneous unilateral bloody nipple discharge

Who are male, aged 50 years and older with a

Unilateral, firm subareolar mass with or without nipple distortion or associated skin changes.

### NON URGENT REFERRALS

Women aged younger than 30 years with a lump

Patients with breast pain and no palpable abnormality, when initial treatment fails and/or with unexplained persistent symptoms

Information for the public and health professional is available from the NICE web site at

[www.nice.org.uk/CG027](http://www.nice.org.uk/CG027)

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence