

Mammography at WGH

These exams require the use of x-rays. Therefore, you should postpone any of these exams if there is any possibility that you could be pregnant.

Mammograms are performed Monday to Friday, 8:00am – 4:00pm at Whitehorse General Hospital, Medical Imaging department, 867-393-8738.

Mammography is a low dose x-ray of the breast tissue. This test can be safely done on adult women (or men) at any age where there is clinical concern or a strong family history. Whitehorse General Hospital is an affiliate site for the Yukon Mammography Program where patients can be referred by their family physician; or can be self referred without a doctor's order, if over the age of 50.

Our qualified and dedicated staff work hard to make your test as comfortable as possible. Please do not use deodorant, body powder, or put lotion on to the breast and underarm area on the day of your test. Please wear a 2-piece outfit, for your comfort. Aerosol deodorant is provided after your mammogram is completed.

MAMMOGRAPHY EXAM DESCRIPTIONS

Yukon Mammography Program (YMP):

A patient may participate in the YMP without a doctor's referral if she is over the age of 50; has no clinical breast concerns, and has no prior history of breast cancer or breast implants (including previous implants removed).

The patient will be required to provide the name of a physician to whom the report will be sent. This examination includes a **Screening Mammogram**. The patient's information is placed in our database and the YMP will contact the patient every two years for their biannual appointment.

Screening Mammogram:

A physician ordered exam, or if over the age of 40 the patient can self-refer. In order to perform a mammogram, the patient will need to undress from the waist up. The breast is placed on to the mammography unit and a compression paddle will then come in contact with the breast, gently spreading the breast tissue out. This pressure lasts for a few seconds while the x-ray is taken and then releases automatically. The compression does not harm the breast but helps to produce a clearer picture for the radiologist (a specialist who reads mammograms). Usually four images are taken, however additional views may be required.

Diagnostic Mammogram:

A physician ordered exam, as above, however additional views in the area of interest and ultrasound of the area may be required.