# Breast lymphoscintigraphy

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET NM04

## Your appointment:

Date: .....

Time: .....

Location: .....

Please see our website for more clinic details.

### Duration of examination

This procedure can take between 30 minutes and three hours.

### Please bring with you:

- Your request form
- Medicare and any
- Healthcare cards

### Payment on the day of the examination is requested.

For more information regarding Benson Radiology please visit:

**bensonradiology.com.au**

## What is a breast lymphoscintigraphy?

Breast lymphoscintigraphy (sentinel node localisation) is a procedure used to identify and mark the lymph node closest to a tumour in the breast.

This is routinely performed immediately prior to breast surgery in order to help the surgeon determine which lymph nodes need to be removed.

## Patient preparation

There is no specific preparation required. You may take your medications as normal.

If having other examinations on the same day please notify our staff as the order of your examinations must be carefully planned.

## What will happen during the examination?

The procedure involves one to four injections into the breast around the lesion. The injection sites may sting for a brief period. After this the procedure is painless.

Images are taken by a special gamma camera shortly after the injection and continue for about 30 minutes. The time it takes to localise the sentinel node can vary greatly between patients. In some cases, the node may not be visualised on the scan at all. This does not mean your operation will be unsuccessful, as surgeons use a number of methods to localise affected lymph nodes.

Once the sentinel lymph node is identified on the images, the position is marked on your skin with a permanent marker. These marks will guide the surgeon to the sentinel node.

## Are there any risks?

This procedure has no associated side effects.

## Pregnant, breast feeding patients and carers of infants

This examination is not suitable for pregnant women.

Breastfeeding mothers may undergo the procedure, but will need to cease breast feeding for 4 hours after the scan

Breast milk should be expressed and discarded during this period. Breast feeding may resume after the 4 hours.

## After the examination

The images will be reviewed and reported by our nuclear medicine specialist. These will then be sent to your referring clinician.

For details on reporting timeframes, please speak with our reception staff.

It is important that you follow up the results of your examination with your referring clinician.

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It is important you understand why and how we will be assisting you. If you have any questions, please call one of our clinics or speak to our staff on the day of your visit.

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Benson radiology

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