

Breast Ultrasound

Radiology Department



[Patient information leaflet](#)

This leaflet provides you with information about our breast ultrasound service. It explains what is involved and who you will meet.

What is a Breast Ultrasound?

An ultrasound examination uses sound to show the tissues of the breast. It is simple and painless. It does not use x-rays.

Your ultrasound images are kept in a digital form and viewed on a computer screen.

What preparation is required?

None.

Can I bring a relative or friend?

Yes, but they cannot accompany you into the ultrasound/ mammography room, except in very special circumstances.

Please note we have no provision for child care.

The Radiology Department

Radiology is also known as the X-Ray or Imaging Department.

Who will I meet?

- **Receptionist/Clerical Staff:** can help you make or change your imaging appointments and ensure your details are correct when you arrive for your appointment.
- **Radiographers:** a female radiographer or female healthcare assistant will assist the radiologist.
- **Radiologists/Breast Clinician:** a specialist doctor trained to use ultrasound to examine your breasts. They will also interpret the images and report them for your consultant.

What happens when I arrive?

Please report to the Radiology reception desk.

You will be asked to have a seat in our waiting area before being called into the ultrasound/mammography room.

What does the ultrasound entail?

When you are in the privacy of the ultrasound/ mammography room, the radiographer or doctor will explain what will happen to you. They will ask if you agree to have the ultrasound (obtain your verbal consent) before starting the examination.

You will be asked to undress to the waist and lie on the examination couch.

The doctor will scan the required area of your breast. A small amount of gel is put on the surface of the breast and a smooth probe moved over the skin. Images of your breast will be seen on a monitor screen.

Will the ultrasound scan hurt?

No.

How long will it take?

Most scans will take about 15 minutes.

Are there any risks in having an ultrasound examination?

No.

Is there an alternative breast imaging examination?

If you are over 40 you may be offered breast x-ray (mammogram) as the first examination as well as an ultrasound.

Are there any side effects?

No. You will be able to drive and can return to work afterwards.

When will I get the results?

If you are attending the breast clinic your ultrasound images should be available immediately in the clinic.

The radiologist will usually provide a report on the images on the same day. Your consultant will inform you of the results when they are available.

Privacy and dignity

We will try to make your visit to our department as comfortable as we can.

Patient survey

We value your opinion about the service we provide. Please help us to improve the service by answering the voluntary questionnaire with your appointment letter.

Reference source

- Royal College of Radiologists
- NHS Breast Screening Programme

Contact

If you have any questions or would like to know more about this examination, please contact the Radiology Department on:

01483 571122 ext: 2050 or 01483 464150

Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm

If you are unable to keep your appointment, please contact us as soon as possible.

Useful websites

- The Royal College of Radiologists

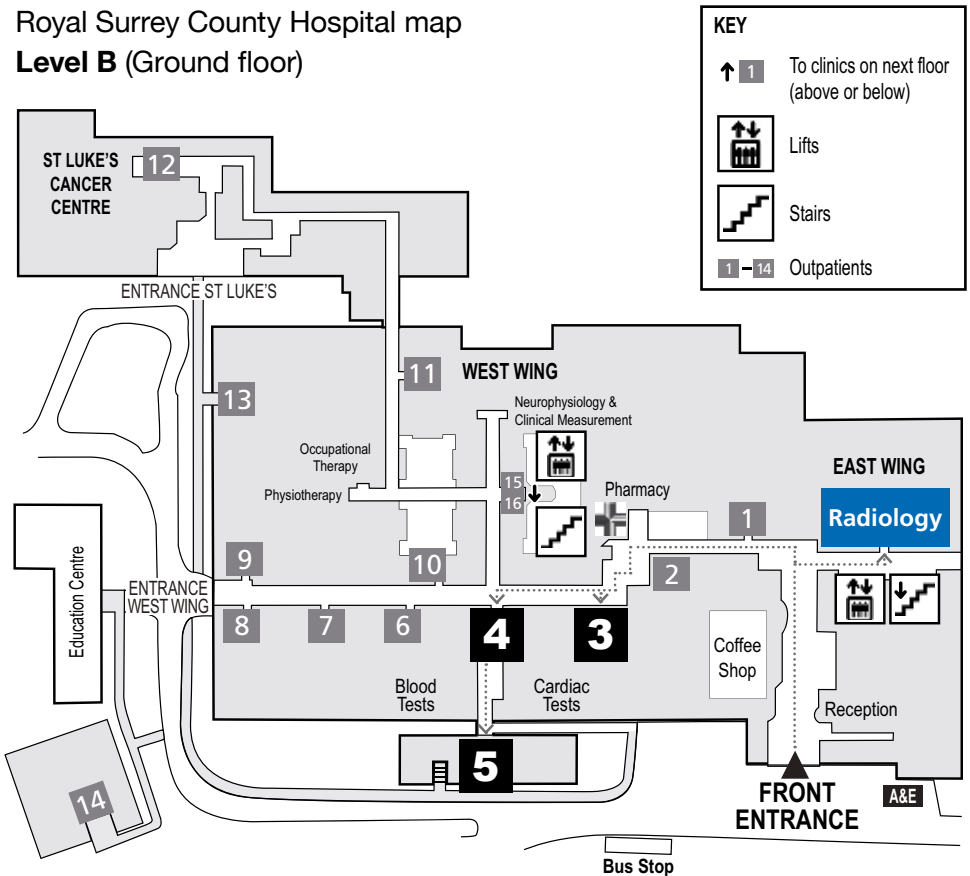
For general information about radiology departments visit:

- www.breasthealthuk.com/faq/breast-ultrasound-scan
- NICE guidelines www.nice.org.uk

How to find the Radiology Department

Royal Surrey County Hospital map

Level B (Ground floor)



Data sharing reference information is available on Royal Surrey County Hospital patient information leaflet entitled:

Your Healthcare records – your information, PIN120703-562

Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Egerton Road

Guildford

Surrey

GU2 7XX

www.royalsurrey.nhs.uk

Radiology Department contact details

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PALS and Advocacy contact details

Contact details of independent advocacy services can be provided by our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) who are located on the right hand side as you enter the main reception area. PALS are also your first point of contact for health related issues, questions or concerns surrounding RSCH patient services.

Telephone: 01483 402757

Email: rsc-tr.pals@nhs.net

Opening hours: 9.00am–3.00pm, Monday to Friday

If you would like information documents in large print, on tape or in another language or form please contact PALS.

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