

Breast Test Wales

Cancer Assessment Times

Quality, Safety and Improvement Committee November 2024



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Breast Test Wales

Purpose:

The Board considered the Service Delivery section of the Integrated Performance Report at the September Board meeting and **requested** that the QSIC Committee consider the data distribution of the Breast Cancer Assessment times and discuss any implications.

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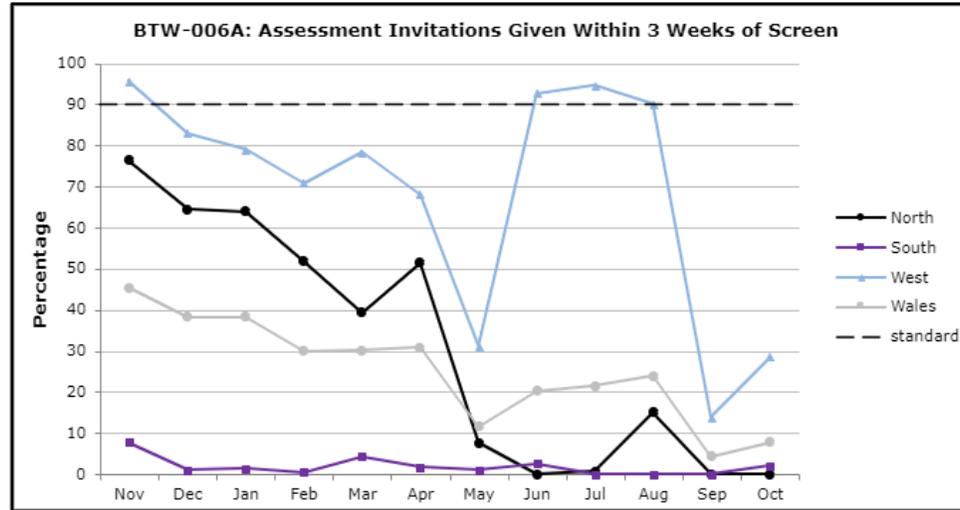
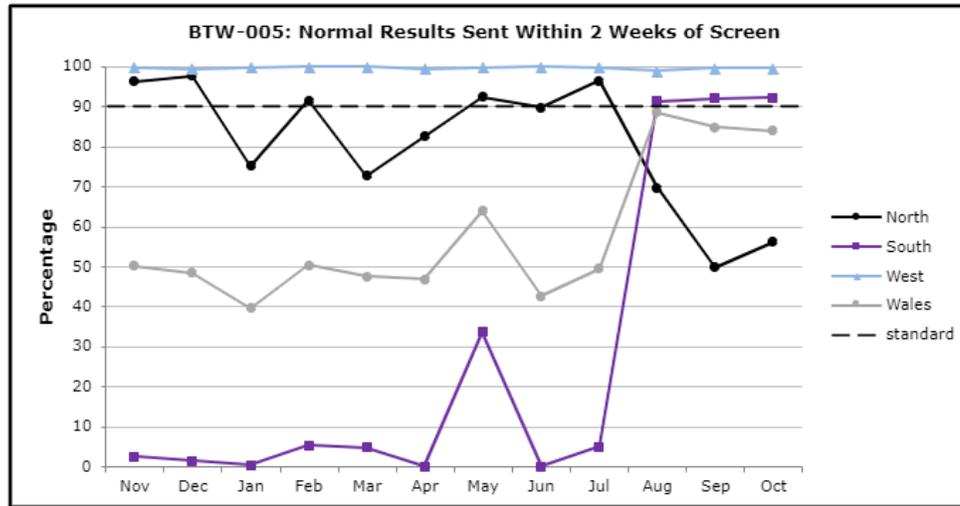
Aim: to reduce mortality from breast cancer



- Target population women aged 50-70, offered screening at three yearly intervals
- Participants who attend for screening have mammograms (X-ray of their breasts).
- Mammograms are double blind read by two independent skilled readers and if required then arbitrated or consensus.
- If abnormalities are observed on the mammogram the participant is invited to an assessment clinic for further tests. These can include breast examination, ultrasound, tomosynthesis and biopsy.
- Breast Screening Programme is responsible for undertaking the assessment clinic and responsible up to the point of a confirmed diagnosis of breast cancer. Care is then transferred to the health board for treatment.
- Breast Screening Programme recovered from the impact of pandemic as planned by Q2 24/25.

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Assessment Waits - Standards



Criteria The percentage of women who are sent a normal result within 2 weeks of being screened

Criteria Number of women requiring assessment offered an appointment within 3 weeks of screen

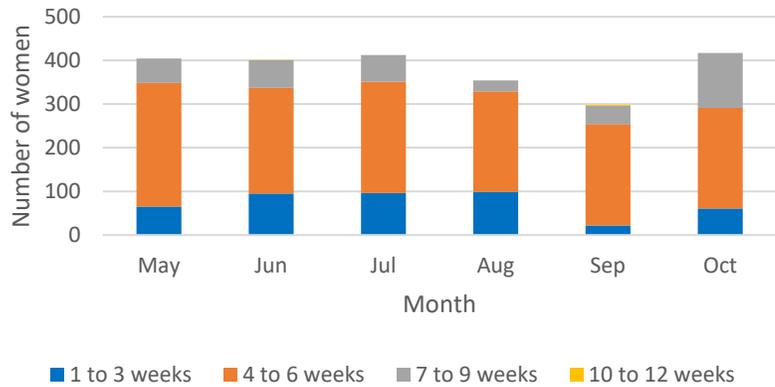
Standard $\geq 90\%$ of normal results sent within 2 weeks of screen

Standard $\geq 90\%$ of assessment invitations given within 3 weeks of screen

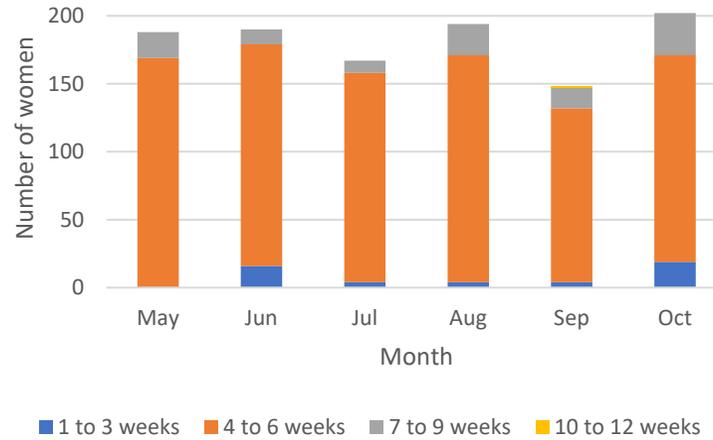
Note- about 10,000 breast screens undertaken each month

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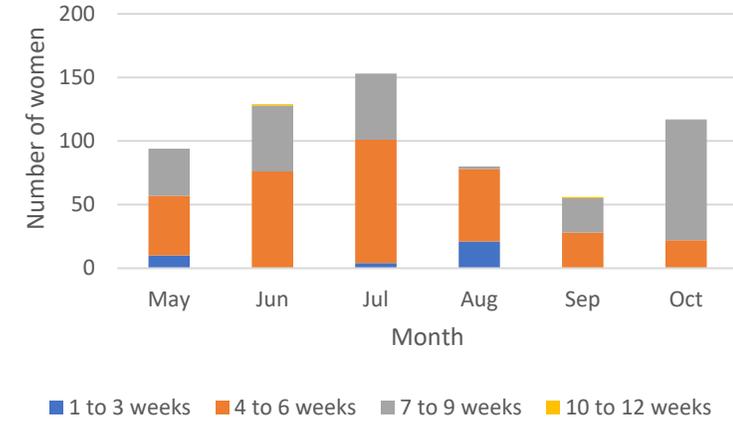
Participants requiring assessment offered an appointment within number of weeks from screen in All Wales



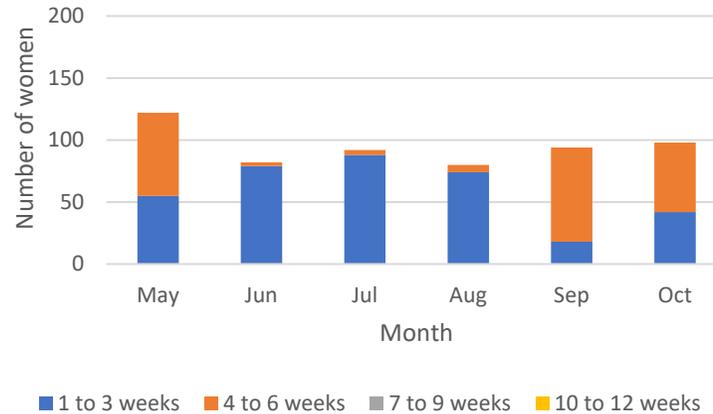
South Wales



North Wales



West Wales



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- **Issues:**
- Breast Screening Programme has been inviting more than usual numbers to recover the backlog and impact from the pandemic. This peak of activity has not fully completed through the assessment pathway
- There are national shortages of skilled clinical staff to undertake reading, arbitration and assessment clinics and this is most marked in North Wales.
 - North Wales: A joint radiologist post with BCU has not been able to secure a suitable applicant following resignation of substantive Radiologist (Llandudno). There is only one substantive Radiologist across BTW in North Wales. One part time Locum consultant in Llandudno and Locum consultant in Wrexham currently on maternity leave. BTW clinical staffing in North Wales mostly training or recently qualified.
- **Impact:**
- There is no expected clinical impact of delay to assessment. Women invited for assessment are sent their invitation shortly before their appointment to reduce time they are worried before attending clinic

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- **Steps being taken to improve:**
- **BTW North**
- There are currently 42 Women waiting for assessment in Llandudno, 30 in Wrexham
- Saturday Clinics are being booked subject to staffing
- Clinic bookings are optimised to ensure all slots are booked and short notice appointments are offered.
- Single handed clinics are taken forward if no surgeon is available to prevent cancellations
- The rate of screening in BTW North can be safely reduced slightly which will enable the timeliness of assessment to improve. This will not impact on the 36 month round length target for the region.
- **BTW South**
- New Radiologist appointed, Further Radiologist appointment anticipated in the New Year. Waiting times for assessment in BTW South East are expected to improve through November and December SPARs. Currently no women waiting for assessment.
- **BTW West**
- No current medical vacancy. The variation in monthly performance for this region is closely related to medical leave. At time of writing there are no significant concerns with this region.

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Recommendation:

The Committee is asked to:

- **Consider** the data distribution of the Breast Cancer Assessment Times and discuss any implications.
- **Provide** an update at the 28 November Board meeting.