

Approval Required: On-Referrals for Restricted Services Breast Diagnostic Services



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Scenario 1 - Oncology

A breast diagnostic service identifies suspicious lymph nodes during a sentinel lymph node biopsy for a Defence member with breast cancer. Recognising the need for specialised surgical intervention and lymph node management, they make an on-referral to a surgical oncologist. By on-referring the Defence member to a surgical oncologist, the diagnostic service ensures access to expertise in breast cancer surgery, lymph node dissection, and ongoing surgical management as part of the comprehensive treatment plan.

In this scenario, Defence approval is required because Oncology is considered a Restricted Service.



Scenario 2 – Genetic Counselling

A breast diagnostic service conducts genetic testing for a Defence member patient with a strong family history of breast cancer. Recognising the need for expert genetic counselling and risk assessment, they make an on-referral to a genetic counsellor specialising in hereditary breast cancer. The on-referral includes the genetic testing results and family history information. By on-referring the Defence member to a genetic counsellor, the diagnostic service ensures access to expertise in assessing hereditary breast cancer risk, providing genetic counselling, and facilitating informed decision-making regarding further surveillance or preventive measures.

In this scenario, Defence approval is required because Genetic Counselling is considered a Restricted Service.



Scenario 3 - Imaging & Radiology

A breast diagnostic service performs a mammogram for a Defence member, identifying an area of concern, and makes an on-referral to a radiologist specialising in breast imaging for further diagnostic evaluation. The on-referral includes mammogram images and relevant clinical information. The radiologist will meticulously review the images, potentially conduct additional imaging tests, and provide an expert interpretation to aid in the accurate diagnosis of the breast abnormality. By involving a specialised radiologist, the breast diagnostic service ensures access to expertise in breast imaging, facilitating a comprehensive assessment and guiding the appropriate course of treatment or further investigations for the patient.

In this scenario, Defence approval is not required because Imaging & Radiology is considered a Non-Restricted Service.

If you have any feedback on this document, please contact the Bupa ADF Health Services team:
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