

*From the Chief Medical Officer*  
Dr Henrietta Campbell CB

**HSS(MD)35-05**

**URGENT COMMUNICATION**

To:

General Practitioners including Sessional Doctors

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Your Ref:  
Our Ref: HSS(MD)35-05  
Date: 21 November 2005

Dear Colleague

### **RECALL WOMEN FOR BREAST CANCER ASSESSMENT**

Concerns have been raised by staff over clinical judgement made by a consultant radiologist involved in breast assessment work at Antrim Area Hospital.

As a result all cases referred for assessment, from the Northern Health and Social Services Board breast screening programme, between August 2004 to November 2005 have been externally reviewed. The assessments in 44 of these women were found to be incomplete. As a precautionary measure these women have been contacted and informed that clinics have been arranged for immediate reassessment on Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 November at Antrim Area Hospital. This fuller assessment is to exclude breast cancer, the risk of which is considered to be low. General Practitioners whose patients are one of the 44 women being reassessed have already been informed by Antrim Area Hospital.

This consultant has also worked in breast radiology (screening assessment and symptomatic assessment) in Altnagelvin and Belfast City Hospitals. These hospitals are now checking their records to identify the women who have been assessed by this consultant, after which any women who needs reassessment will be contacted immediately. Minister has asked Dr Robin Wilson, Director of Breast Screening Quality Assurance, East Midlands to lead the work into the assessment of all affected patients.

Helplines have been set up by all three hospitals their numbers are:

Antrim Area Hospital	0500 825 158
Belfast City Hospital	028 7161 1213
Altnagelvin Hospital	028 9023 3531

