

Patient information

Nipple Discharge (Bloodstained or Clear)

Breast Services Royal Liverpool Hospital

What causes this condition?

Sometimes a little growth (like a wart) may grow in one of the milk ducts that can cause some leakage from the nipple. This may be bloodstained, clear or clear yellow / pink. Often it leaks from only one area of one nipple. This little wart-like growth is called a duct papilloma.

Very occasionally this can be an early sign of cancer. Your clinic doctor or nurse will check this problem very carefully.

How does the clinic doctor or nurse check this condition?

In clinic you will have been asked questions about your nipple discharge. You will have been asked whether it occurs from one or both breasts, one or more areas on the nipple and what colour it is. This information helped the clinic doctor or nurse to make a diagnosis.

If you are over 40 years of age, you will usually have been asked to have a mammogram (breast X-ray), and you will have had a breast examination to check if there were any lumps or lumpy areas of the breast that also need to be checked.

If any nipple discharge could be obtained from the nipple this will have been checked under the microscope.

When all the tests were finished, the results will have been discussed with you.

What happens after I have been to clinic?

- If the clinic doctor or nurse could not get some nipple discharge to check under the microscope, you may be asked to come back to clinic to try again to check this.
- If you have no more nipple discharge by the time you come back to clinic, the doctor or nurse may be able to tell you that no further treatment is needed. This will be discussed with you in clinic.
- If the clinic doctor or nurse found another breast problem that has been checked out, the results of these tests will be discussed with you; and whether any other tests or treatment are needed.

- If the doctor or clinic nurse has test results showing blood in the nipple discharge or possible duct papilloma, you will be asked to have an operation to remove one or more milk ducts. By removing the milk ducts this will let the doctors be able to look under the microscope to check no other breast problem is present (please see leaflet, PIF 1236, about having an operation to remove one or more milk ducts).

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Further information

Breast Care Nurses

Tel: 0151 706 2927

Textphone Number: 18001 0151 706 2927

Breast Nurse Practitioners

Tel: 0151 706 2931

Textphone Number: 18001 0151 706 2931

Your family doctor (GP) or Practice Nurse

Breast Cancer Care Telephone

Tel: 0808 800 6000

Website www.breastcancercare.org.uk

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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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