

## Billing of Breast Imaging Exams:

### **Routine ('screening') Mammograms:**

By law, all routine mammograms are fully covered by your insurance company, if obtained more than 11 months after your last mammogram.

### **Diagnostic Mammograms and Breast Ultrasound:**

If you are recalled for a diagnostic exam because of an abnormal area on your routine mammogram, the additional testing is charged and billed separately to your insurance company. Most insurance companies require a co-pay for the diagnostic exam if you have not reached your insurance deductible for the year. If you are recalled for a diagnostic exam and have questions about how your insurance will pay for the service, please contact your insurance company and be sure to tell them the mammogram is for "diagnostic" reasons.

### **If you do not have insurance, you are responsible for payment.**

Please know that if you find that payment is a hardship, Dartmouth-Hitchcock's Customer Service staff can help. A representative can help you:

- Find out if there are programs available that may pay for the service.
- Create a budget plan so you may pay over time.
- See if you are eligible for a financial assistance program (financial aid) for services you receive at Dartmouth-Hitchcock.

To talk with a Customer Service Representative call **800.368.4783** or email [patient.accounts@hitchcock.org](mailto:patient.accounts@hitchcock.org).

Dartmouth-Hitchcock is committed to providing state-of-the-art breast imaging exams, interpretation, and emotional and financial support to all of our patients. We look forward to serving you.

Mammography services are also available at our community group practice locations in Manchester and Nashua.

### **For more information call:**

Manchester: 603.695.2797 or 603.695.2692

Nashua: 603.577.4055



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# Routine Mammograms and Diagnostic Exams

## Information for Patients



## About Routine Mammograms

A routine (or 'screening') mammogram is a test designed to find early breast cancer before it grows large enough to cause a physical change, such as a lump, in your breast. Only women who don't have signs or symptoms of breast cancer should come for routine mammograms.

**If you have a breast lump or other sign or symptom of possible breast cancer, please discuss this with your health care provider and reschedule your appointment for a 'diagnostic' exam that may include mammograms, breast ultrasound or both.**

Your routine mammogram is an important part of your preventive health care. Your mammogram will be reviewed by a radiologist who has special training and expertise in reading mammograms. The radiologist who reads your mammogram will compare it with previous mammograms to look for changes that may represent breast cancer. This evaluation process is usually completed by the end of the next day following your mammogram appointment; however, it sometimes takes more time, especially if we need to obtain previous mammograms that you have had done elsewhere.



## Mammogram Results

After your mammogram has been read, the results will be entered into your medical record. **If your mammogram is normal**, you will be sent a letter of notification. Depending on where you live, you should receive this letter approximately one week after your mammogram appointment. If you have a myD-H account, your routine mammogram results will be posted three working days after your results have been finalized.

**If there is an abnormal area on your mammogram**, you will receive a letter as well as a phone call from the radiology department to schedule a separate appointment to evaluate the abnormality. This appointment is called a **diagnostic exam** and may include additional mammograms, breast ultrasound or both. At the diagnostic exam, a breast radiology specialist will check your images as soon as they're done and your results will be given to you before you leave.

## Call Backs and Diagnostic Evaluations

It is important to understand that a possible abnormality on your routine mammogram does not mean that you have breast cancer. In fact, women with an abnormal routine mammogram have a less than 5% chance of having breast cancer. Despite these good odds, it is still very important to have the diagnostic exam to understand what may or may not be breast cancer.

