

# Screening Mammogram versus Diagnostic Mammogram

## Screening Mammogram

A screening mammogram is an exam used to detect early breast cancer in women experiencing no symptoms. Mammography plays a central part in early detection of breast cancers because it can show changes in the breast up to two years before you or your physician can feel them. Current guidelines recommend screening mammography every year beginning at age 40. In addition, women who have had breast cancer and those who are at increased risk due to a genetic history of breast cancer should seek expert medical advice about whether they should begin screening before age 40 and about the frequency of screening.

## Diagnostic Mammogram

Diagnostic mammography is used to evaluate a patient with abnormal clinical findings, such as a breast lump or lumps that have been found by the woman or her doctor. Diagnostic mammography may also be done after an abnormal screening mammogram in order to determine the cause of the area of concern on the screening exam.

## Eligibility for Screening Mammography

To be eligible for a screening mammogram, the patient must

- Have no previous history of breast cancer
- Not have any present symptoms, such as pain, lumps or nipple discharge
- Not be pregnant or breast-feeding

## Eligibility for Diagnostic Mammography\*

To be eligible for a diagnostic mammogram, the patient must

- Have an order from physician
- Have a family or personal history of breast cancer
- Present symptoms, such as pain, lumps or nipple discharge

## Insurance Coverage

You should contact your insurance company before scheduling a mammogram – as a general rule under the Affordable Care Act Screening Mammograms (40 or older) are covered without cost sharing. **\*Diagnostic Mammograms are subject to deductibles and co-pays which the patient is responsible for paying.**