



Ordering Mammograms: Screening vs. Diagnostic

Screening Mammography

Screening mammography is performed on an asymptomatic female that has not manifested any clinical signs, symptoms, or physical findings of breast cancer. CC & MLO views are obtained of each breast.

- ✓ If the patient is currently asymptomatic, most likely a screening mammogram is clinically appropriate.

Effective July 1, 2005 V76.11 is approved for use for submitting claims to Medicare for screening mammograms.

CMS considers the following patients to be high risk:

- Has a personal history of breast cancer (V10.3)
 - Has a family history of breast cancer - a mother, sister, or daughter who has breast cancer (V16.3)
 - Had her first baby after age 30 (V15.89)
 - Has never had a baby (V15.89)
- ✓ If the patient meets one or more of the criteria above, indicate V76.11, “Special screening for malignant neoplasm, screening mammogram for high-risk patient” on the order for a screening mammogram, plus the appropriate V-code noted above.
 - ✓ If the patient does not meet any of the criteria above, indicate V76.12, “Special screening for malignant neoplasm, other screening mammography” on the order for a screening mammogram.

Diagnostic Mammography

Diagnostic mammography is also called problem-solving mammography or consultative mammography. A diagnostic mammogram is performed because there is a reasonable suspicion that an abnormality may exist. Additional views are usually performed for a diagnostic mammogram.

Diagnostic mammograms are clinically appropriate under the following circumstances:

- Clinical signs, symptoms, or physical findings suggestive of breast cancer
 - An abnormal or questionable screening mammogram
 - A personal history of breast cancer
 - A personal history of biopsy-proven benign breast disease.
 - **A woman is asymptomatic, but based on her history and other factors the physician considers si appropriate.**
- ✓ If the patient meets one or more of the above conditions, request a diagnostic mammogram with the appropriate indications documented on the order.