



**Which Mammogram to Order:
Diagnostic or Screening?**

Scheduling and Pre-registration: 907.212.3151
Clinical Questions: 907.212.3607
Fax: 907.212.5828 mm
www.provimaging.com

Diagnostic Mammogram – a written order is required.

For a patient with any of the following:

- Personal history of breast cancer
- Stereo/ultrasound guided biopsy in the past year
- Dominant mass/lesion/lump
- Nipple discharge that is clear or bloody
- Six-month follow-up for recent abnormal mammogram
- All men with symptoms

Call our nurse (212-3607) or radiologist (212-3151) for any patient under age 30.

NOTE: Document symptoms clearly. Our technologists and radiologists need to know exactly what you have found on clinical exam to completely work-up the symptom. Fibrocystic breasts is not sufficient reason to order a diagnostic mammogram. We need specific information about your concern. Example: Nodule at approximately 4 o'clock in the left breast.

Screening Mammogram: Women 40 and older
a written order is not required.

For the patient 40 years and older who has no symptoms

NOTE: A screening mammogram may include women who have lumpy/fibrocystic breasts, breast tenderness, strong family history of breast cancer, previous benign biopsy, previous cyst operation, and nipple discharge that is milky or greenish.

Written order always required for younger patients beginning screening. Rarely patients aged 30-34 may begin screening early if they are at increased risk. Give specific information about the history on the order.

Providence Imaging Center (PIC) is an independent diagnostic testing facility with two locations: In Anchorage at 3340 Providence Drive on the east side of the Providence Alaska Medical Center campus, and in Eagle River at 17101 Snowmobile Lane.



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Breast Imaging: Special Situations

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Women with clinical symptoms

Under age 30: targeted breast ultrasound

Age 30-34: targeted breast ultrasound and possibly unilateral diagnostic mammogram

Age 35 and older: bilateral diagnostic mammogram and targeted breast ultrasound

Women with strong family history

Screening mammogram – Young women will need an order with specific family history information documented. Women with a strong family history of breast cancer would benefit from consultation with a genetic counselor to objectively quantify risk.

Breastfeeding women

With a clinical symptom, order a diagnostic mammogram and targeted breast ultrasound. The woman will be instructed to nurse or pump her breast immediately prior to the exam. Lactating women should wait about one year after they stop breastfeeding to resume screening mammograms.

Men with clinical symptoms

Diagnostic bilateral mammogram and targeted breast ultrasound.

Fibrocystic breasts

Fibrocystic change is not generally considered a reason for diagnostic mammography. However, if you have an area of specific concern, please describe and indicate the specific area on the breast diagram on the PIC order form.

Breast pain

Breast pain is subjective and must be assessed carefully before ordering breast imaging. If the pain is focal or localized to a small area, diagnostic studies may be performed. Indicate the location just as you would for a breast lump. Routine screening mammography is usually sufficient for generalized pain or tenderness in a quadrant or more of the breast.

Nipple discharge

Spontaneous bloody or clear nipple discharge from one duct is considered a clinical symptom and should be worked up with diagnostic studies, which may include a ductogram. White, cloudy or greenish discharge is not usually worrisome for cancer.



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