

Diagnostic Mammography v BreastScreen



Please use the following information as a guide on when to send your patient for a Diagnostic Mammogram or to BreastScreen Victoria. The following explanation can be used as a guide to make it easier to decide just what is best for your patient.

Diagnostic Mammography

A diagnostic mammogram should be performed if there is a reason to suspect the presence of malignancy. Diagnostic mammography can attract a Medicare rebate with patients who have:

- The past occurrence of breast malignancy in the patient or members of the patient's immediate family (1st degree relative)
- Symptoms or indications of malignancy found on an examination of the patient by a medical practitioner

It is important that a request for diagnostic mammography must contain clinical notes that detail why the referrer requires the mammogram for the patient. Previous history of benign breast disease is general is NOT an indication for a rebatable mammogram.

The clinical notes must include signs or symptoms, which raise concern in regard to malignancy.

Examples include:

- Previous history of breast cancer
- Family history of breast cancer
- Symptoms or indications of malignancy found on an examination of the patient. e.g.
 - Breast thickening or dimpling
 - Nipple change or discharge
 - Focal tenderness (including a diagram on the referral)
 - Focal lump
 - Possible lesion
 - Any other suggestions/finding that could represent or question malignancy as long as the doctor highlights this is making them concerned about underlying malignancy.

Privately referred Screening Mammography, with a diagnostic ultrasound where required, can provide a more complete assessment at a single visit.

Please note that Northeast Health Wangaratta's Medical Imaging Department can provide screening mammograms for asymptomatic patients, however, there will be an out of pocket cost to the patient as there is no Medicare rebate for this service.

BreastScreen

BreastScreen Victoria provide screening mammograms are for patients from 40-70 years of age with no clinical breast symptom(s) and for monitoring benign breast conditions.

This is a free service supported by Government funding and a written referral is not necessary. Patients can access this service at BreastScreen by calling 132 050 and bookings can be made to attend the fixed site now operational at Wangaratta.

Kind regards
Medical Imaging Team

MEDICARE REBATE GUIDE

Examination	Indications	Medicare Rebate
Screening Mammogram	Asymptomatic Women	No
Diagnostic Mammogram	The patient has: Past history of breast cancer Family history of breast cancer Symptoms or indications of malignancy found on an examination of the patient by a medical practitioner.	Yes
Ultrasound	Where malignancy suspected in young women (Under 30) In association with mammography.	Yes

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Illoura Residential Aged Care: 32-50 College Street Wangaratta