

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Asymptomatic, average risk women age 50 to 74 should be screened for breast cancer with mammography every 2 years.

Who is eligible to participate in the BreastCheck program?

Most women, trans males with no chest surgery, and trans females who have been on hormone therapy for at least five years, who:

- are age 50 to 74,
- of average risk for breast cancer,
- asymptomatic,
- do not have a personal history of breast cancer, and
- do not currently have breast implants.

Who is NOT eligible to participate in the BreastCheck Program?

The BreastCheck program is not recommended for patients who have:

- [signs or symptoms](#) of breast cancer,
- breast implants, or
- a previous diagnosis of breast cancer.

These patients need a referral for [diagnostic imaging](#). Do **not** send diagnostic referrals to BreastCheck.

How can my patient make a screening mammogram appointment?

Eligible patients 50 years of age and over can call BreastCheck at **1-855-95-CHECK** to make an appointment for a screening mammogram. A doctor's referral is not needed.

If my patient is eligible, but unlikely to call to make an appointment, what can I do?

Complete the [Screening Mammogram Appointment Request Form](#) with your patient's consent and fax to BreastCheck. Let your patient know that BreastCheck will call them to

confirm eligibility and book a screening appointment at the screening site most convenient for them.

How does BreastCheck invite eligible patients for a screening mammogram?

BreastCheck sends a letters of invitation to patients starting at age 50. Patients 50 and over do not need a letter or requisition to make a screening mammogram appointment. the patient can decide at any time to participate in screening by calling BreastCheck at **1-855-95-CHECK**.

Can my patient have a mammogram in rural Manitoba?

BreastCheck has four clinics across Manitoba in Winnipeg, Brandon, Thompson, and Morden/Winkler (Boundary Trails Health Centre). Patients can call BreastCheck at **1-855-95-CHECK** to book an appointment at any of our clinics. These sites are all wheelchair accessible.

BreastCheck also has two mobile units that travel to more than 90 communities across the province. Patients can visit cancercare.mb.ca/screening/breast-how.html and enter their postal code or community name to find out when the mobile vehicle will be in a nearby community.. Mobile site appointments can also be made by calling 1-855-95-CHECK. The mobile units are wheelchair accessible.

Can those outside of ages 50-74 attend the BreastCheck mobile clinic for a mammogram?

BreastCheck will, on a limited basis, accept patients at mobile sites who live in Northern or remote communities or who cannot access mammography in any other way. A **referral**

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from a healthcare provider is required and will be reviewed by the Medical Lead.

Does BreastCheck send recall letters to patients?

A patient will receive a letter inviting them to book their next appointments if their previous BreastCheck mammogram was normal, or if the result of their follow-up tests following their BreastCheck mammogram was benign. Invitation letters are sent every 1 or 2 years, depending on the radiologist's screening recall recommendation.

BreastCheck patients ≥ 75 years of age will no longer be invited to participate in the program. At that time please discuss the need for further screening mammography with your patient. If she chooses to continue screening, she can book her appointment by calling BreastCheck.

If a patient is interested in having a screening mammogram and has never attended BreastCheck, the patient will need a referral to a diagnostic site.

Healthcare providers should consider stopping screening with mammography for patients with:

- comorbidities associated with limited life expectancy, or
- physical limitations for mammography which prevent proper positioning.

What happens if my patient has an abnormal mammogram through BreastCheck? Who arranges follow-up testing?

In the case of an abnormal result, BreastCheck will:

- schedule the first diagnostic appointment,
- phone the patient to notify them that they need a further test(s) and
- inform a patient of when and where the next test is, or of the facility which will contact them with that information.

This is followed with a letter to both the patient and the healthcare provider confirming the appointment date and time, along with a copy of the screening mammogram report for the healthcare provider.

How do women with breast implants receive cancer screening?

Women age 50-74 who currently have breast implants, and are at average risk for breast cancer should be screened at a diagnostic site. A referral is required. Ultrasound and MRI are not routinely used for screening average risk women with implants due to the lack of clinical studies to showing a mortality reduction.

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Manitoba diagnostic mammography sites:

Breast Health Centre
400 Tache Avenue, Winnipeg
204-235-3906

Boundary Trails Health Centre
Main Junction Hwy 3 & 4, Winkler
204-331-8811

Brandon Regional Health Centre
150 McTavish Avenue East, Brandon
204-578-4440, toll free 1-800-661-5458

Health Sciences Centre
820 Sherbrook Street, Winnipeg
204-787-3661

Manitoba X-Ray
3263 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg
204-832-0273

Radiology Consultants of Manitoba
1120 Grant Park, Unit 1550, Winnipeg
(in Grant Park Mall)
204-942-6453

St. Boniface Hospital
409 Tache Avenue, Winnipeg
204-233-8563

Thompson General Hospital
871 Thompson Drive South, Thompson
204-677-2381

DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE	MAMMOGRAPHY	BREAST ULTRASOUND	BIOPSIES		BREAST MRI (USE MRI FORM)
			ULTRASOUND GUIDED	STEREOTACTIC GUIDED	
Health Sciences Centre	✓				✓
Manitoba X-Ray	✓				
Radiology Consultants of Wpg	✓	✓			
Breast Health Centre	✓	✓	✓	✓	
St. Boniface Hospital					✓
Boundary Trails Health Centre	✓	✓	✓		
Brandon Regional Health Centre	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thompson General Hospital	✓	✓			

Are breast self-exams and clinical breast exams currently recommended?

Routine clinical breast exams and breast self-exams are **not** recommended. BreastCheck's evidence-based guidelines follow guidelines from The Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care (CTFPHC). The [CTFPHC](#) found no evidence indicating that clinical breast exams or breast self-exams reduce breast cancer mortality or all-cause mortality. Rather, encourage patients to know how their breasts normally look and feel and to make an appointment with their regular healthcare

provider to discuss any changes. This should happen even if their last mammogram was normal.

What are the known risk factors for breast cancer?

- Being female
- Being over age 50
- Known family history
- Having dense breasts after menopause,
- Repeated radiation treatments to the chest area