

Annual Screening Mammography Resolution

Resolution

The North Carolina Advisory Committee on Cancer Coordination and Control and its Early Detection Subcommittee strongly supports legislation that extends current State Health Plan coverage to include annual screening mammography for women ages 40 to 49 years old, in accordance with American Cancer Society and other expert group guidelines.

Background

Breast cancer imposes a significant burden on women in North Carolina.

- In North Carolina in 2005, there will be an estimated 6,330 new cases of female breast cancer and 1,210 deaths. (ACS, Cancer Facts and Figures, 2005)
- Among women in North Carolina, it is the cancer most often diagnosed and trails only lung cancer as the most frequent cause of cancer death (NC Central Cancer Registry, 2002 incidence, 2003 mortality)

Periodic breast cancer screening with mammography reduces breast cancer deaths among women ages 40 years and older.

- Research over the past four decades has consistently demonstrated reductions in breast cancer mortality among women ages 40 years and older.
- Reductions in mortality result from regular and repetitive screening, not from one time or occasional screening.
- Humphrey LL, Helfand M, Chan BK, Woolf SH. Breast cancer screening: a summary of the evidence for the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. *Ann Intern Med.* 2002 Sep 3;137(5 Part 1):347-60. Summary for patients in: *Ann Intern Med.* 2002 Sep 3;137 (5 Part 1):147.

Expert groups, such as the American Cancer Society (ACS) and others, support annual breast cancer screening for women ages 40 years and older.

- The ACS recommends annual mammography (with CBE) for all women ages 40 and older. (Smith RA, Cokkinides V, Eyre HJ. American Cancer Society Guidelines for the Early Detection of Cancer, 2005. *CA Cancer J Clin.* 2005 Jan-Feb;55(1):31-44.
- The American Medical Association (AMA) and the American College of Radiology (ACR) also recommend annual mammography for all women ages 40 years and older.
- The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) recommend mammography every 1 – 2 years for all women ages 40 and older.

The North Carolina's State Health Plan (SHP) covers annual screening mammography for women ages 50 years and older but only covers mammography every two years for women ages 40 to 49.

- **G.S. 135-40.5 (e)** Benefits not subject to deductible and coinsurance. Routine Diagnostic Examinations.

The Plan will pay one hundred percent (100%) of allowable charges for routine diagnostic examinations and tests, including ... mammograms ... that are medically necessary for the maintenance and improvement of individual health but no more often than once every three years for covered individuals to age 40 years, **once every two years for covered individuals to age 50 years, and once a year for covered individuals age 50 years** and older, unless a more frequent occurrence is warranted by a medical condition when such charges are incurred in a medically supervised facility.

- **G.S. 135-40.6 (8) s.** Benefits subject to deductible and coinsurance. Other Covered Charges. Routine Diagnostic Examinations:

Allowable charges for routine diagnostic examinations and tests, including ... mammograms ... that are medically necessary for the maintenance and improvement of individual health but no more often than once every three years for covered individuals to age 40 years, **once every two years for covered individuals to age 50 years, and once a year for covered individuals age 50 years and older** ... unless a more frequent occurrence is warranted by a medical condition when such charges are incurred in a medically supervised facility.

Proposed Action

We support changes in G.S. 135-40.5 (e) and G.S. 135-40.6 (8) s. that extend coverage of routine diagnostic examinations to include annual mammography for women ages 40 –49.

ADOPTED: April 22, 2005