



Oregon Breast and Cervical Cancer Program Mammography Payment Policy July 1, 2009

Beginning in 2009, Oregon's Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (BCCP) will only pay for one screening mammogram per individual client in a 2-yr period of time.

Why is this Change Happening?

The goal of BCCP is to provide screening opportunities for women who are low income or underinsured and who have been rarely or never screened. In the face of limited funding from the federal level, and increased need for BCCP services in Oregon, BCCP has had to look at many aspects of our program, to determine the best strategies for serving as many women as possible. With input from providers, partners, the BCCP Medical Advisory Committee (MAC), and the Allocation Steering Committee, BCCP has determined that a policy of payment for mammography every two years (instead of every year) will help to provide more Oregon women with BCCP services. The policy change will allow more women in Oregon access to BCCP services because providers will be able to screen different women from one year to another.

Clinical Recommendations and BCCP Payment Policy Are Not the Same

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that women over the age of forty receive mammograms every one to two years. After reviewing the scientific evidence, and recommendations from national organizations, the clinical recommendation from BCCP MAC is that women continue to have mammograms performed annually if they are over the age of forty. However, the MAC also felt strongly that because of limited funds, BCCP program policy needs to differ from clinical recommendations in order to spread services to as many women as possible. The decision to have more frequent mammograms (e.g. annually) is between an individual woman and her provider; however, women and their providers will need to explore alternate payment options, as the BCCP will not fund these extra mammograms.

BCCP will only pay for one screening mammogram per individual client in a 2-yr period of time. **It is important to note that this restriction does not apply to:**

- Additional views or shorter interval follow-up mammograms recommended by the radiologist due to abnormalities in the screening mammogram;
- Diagnostic mammograms necessary for women with symptoms or findings on clinical breast exam;
- Screening mammograms for women with a clinically documented personal history of breast cancer.

BCCP will continue to pay for an annual office visit for all enrolled women, which includes a Clinical Breast Exam.

2 Year Mammography Payment Policy Implementation

There will be a 3-month grace period from the beginning of the BCCP funding cycle (until October 1) for clinics to provide education and system changes needed to implement the new policy. BCCP encourages all providers to begin this policy change July 1, 2009. October 1, 2009, the program will begin monitoring and contacting providers that are not complying with this new policy and continue to bill BCCP for second annual mammograms.

During the allocation process, BCCP greatly valued your input into the decision-making process. Maximizing BCCP's limited funding has not been easy; we appreciate your support in helping BCCP reach the women of highest need in Oregon for breast and cervical screenings.