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Center for Health Protection, Radiation Protection Services

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Informational Bulletin 2015-02

From: David M. Howe, Program Director 
Radiation Protection Services

To: Health Care Facilities Providing Mammography Services

Subject: Dense Breast Tissue Advisement

This Informational Bulletin addresses recent OAR changes pertaining to patient Dense Breast Notifications. During the 2013 legislative session, Senate Bill 420 established an Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) directing health care facilities to issue a *Dense Breast Notification* advisement in the form prescribed by the Oregon Health Authority.

Following the rule filing for Dense Breast Notification (OAR 333-106-0735), written comments were received by Radiation Protection Services (RPS) requesting re-evaluation of the language relating to the rule and notification statement.

The *Dense Breast Tissue Notification* Rulemaking Committee was reconvened and determined that the OAR language should be amended. As such, amended rule language was filed with the Oregon Secretary of State office and became effective January 1, 2015. OAR 333-106-0735 Section (2) now states:

(2) In all cases where a mammogram shows a patient having extremely dense breast tissue or heterogeneous dense breast tissue, the facility shall incorporate the following notification within the lay summary mammography report provided to the patient:

Your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is common and is not abnormal. However, dense breast tissue can make it harder to evaluate the results of your mammogram and may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This information about the results of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness and to promote discussion with your health care provider. Together, you can decide if you may benefit from further screening. A report of your results was sent to your health care provider.

RPS is allowing a grace period for mammography facilities to incorporate the new language within their lay person reports. Effective June 1, 2015, RPS staff will enforce compliance in its entirety relating to OAR 333-106-0735. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

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