

## **Guidance on COVID-19 Vaccinations and Mammograms:**

**Due to the increased availability of COVID-19 vaccinations, there may be some patients who receive their vaccination before completing a mammogram or other imaging test.** It has been reported that some patients develop temporarily swollen lymph nodes near the vaccination injection site. These swollen lymph nodes can appear on mammograms or other imaging tests and be interpreted as a false positive reading.

Below is guidance for health care providers who have patients that have received the COVID-19 vaccination. The guidance given is not comprehensive but might be useful in developing a plan with patients and other health care providers to protect against the virus and promote cancer screening and diagnostic testing.

1. Update patient intake forms to include questions asking whether a patient has received the COVID-19 vaccine, when they received it, and on which arm the vaccination is received.
2. Advise patients that it is normal to have swelling in the lymph nodes near the COVID-19 vaccination injection site. The swelling is a positive sign that the body is creating antibodies to protect against the virus.
3. Inform patients that they might not need to reschedule their mammogram if they have been recently vaccinated. Instead discuss with them their options and monitor the situation on a case by case basis. If it is determined that a mammogram is needed, then ask the patient which arm was utilized for the vaccination to avoid misinterpretation of mammogram results. Swollen lymph nodes near the vaccination injection site can potential impact mammograms results for up to 6 weeks after receiving the vaccination.
4. Schedule the mammogram before the patient's first COVID-19 vaccination or wait 6-10 weeks after they have received their second COVID-19 vaccination for a mammogram, if possible and doesn't compromise the patient's health.

For more guidance, please utilize the resources below:

- MD Anderson Cancer Center 'COVID-19 vaccines and mammograms: 7 things to know', found [here](#)
- Ask Dr. Miller Post from March 2021
- Society of Breast Imaging (SBI) Recommendations for the Management of Axillary Adenopathy in Patients with Recent COVID-19 Vaccination