



One of a series of tip sheets that look at key Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set measures

Breast cancer screening

This measure examines the percentage of women 50 to 74 years old who had a mammogram in the past two years.

Improving HEDIS® scores*

- **Order** routine mammograms at least once every 24 months for all women 50 to 74 years old. Depending on risk factors, mammograms may be administered more frequently.
- **Assure** that results are in the chart. This can help to determine if patients have followed through with testing. You only receive credit for completed tests.
- **Develop** a call-back system to remind patients who are due for screening exams.
- **Educate** patients on the importance of routine screening and remind patients that preventive screenings are now covered under health care reform.

Exclusions: Members with history of bilateral mastectomy. Members in hospice are excluded from this measure.

Note: The following are not considered appropriate methods for primary screening: breast ultrasound, MRI, 3-D mammogram (tomosynthesis) and/or biopsies.

Did you know?

- Breast cancer is still the leading cause of cancer in women, with one in eight women being diagnosed at some point in their lifetime.
- The greatest risk factor for breast cancer is age.

Modifiable risk factors include:

- Alcohol use or smoking
- Physical inactivity

Also, after menopause:

- More than five years use of combined estrogen progestin hormone therapy
- Overweight or obese

Tip:

Consider sending a reminder card to all eligible women with information about mammography and the importance of routine screening.

*HEDIS, which stands for Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set, is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance.