



One in a series of tip sheets about HEDIS® and other measures that contribute to star ratings of Medicare Advantage plans.

Breast Cancer Screening (BCS)

Effectiveness of Care HEDIS® Measure

Measure definition

Female patients ages 50–74 who had a mammogram to screen for breast cancer in the past two years.¹

Exclusions

Patients are excluded if they:

- Have a history of mastectomy on both the left and right side on the same or different dates of service.
- Received hospice care during the measurement year.
- Are age 66 and older with advanced illness and frailty (for additional definition information, see the *Advanced Illness and Frailty Guide*).
- Are deceased during measurement year.

Information that patient medical records should include

- Date the mammogram was performed.
- Documentation of mastectomy and date performed (if exact date is unknown, the year is acceptable).

Information that patient claims should include

If the patient met exclusion criteria, include the following ICD-10-CM² diagnosis codes on the claim, as appropriate:

ICD-10-CM code	Description
Z90.11	Acquired absence of right breast and nipple
Z90.12	Acquired absence of left breast and nipple
Z90.13	Acquired absence of bilateral breasts and nipples

Tips for success

- Create a standing order to mail to patient for mammography.
- Provide a list of locations where mammogram screenings can be performed.

Tips for talking with patients

Educate patients about the importance of routine screening:

- Many women with breast cancer do not have symptoms, which is why regular breast cancer screenings are so important.
- Mammograms are an effective method for detecting breast cancer in early stages, when it is most treatable.³
- The recommended frequency of routine mammograms is at least once every 24 months for all women ages 50–74. Depending on risk factors, mammograms may be done more frequently.

- The accuracy of mammography improves as women age and has an overall detection rate of about 85 percent.⁴

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¹National Committee for Quality Assurance. *HEDIS® 2020 Volume 2 Technical Specifications for Health Plans* (2019), 83-86

²ICD-10-CM created by the National Center for Health Statistics, under authorization by the World Health Organization . WHO-copyright holder.

³American Cancer Society. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/breast-cancer/screening-tests-and-early-detection.html>*

⁴American Cancer Society. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/breast-cancer/frequently-asked-questions-about-the-american-cancer-society-new-breast-cancer-screening-guideline.html>*

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