

**Getting a mammogram is one of the best steps you can take to protect your health.** Mammograms are critical in helping to detect breast cancer early, when treatment is most likely to be successful. The recommended timing and frequency of mammograms may vary based on your age and risk level, and with a few simple tips, you can ensure the best possible mammogram experience.

#### **TIME IT RIGHT**

Avoid getting a mammogram the week before your period, when your breasts are extra sensitive.

### **KEEP CLEAN**

Antiperspirants, perfume, lotion, or powder under your arms or on your breasts can show up as white or cloudy spots on a mammogram.

## **DRESS SMART**

Wear a top that makes it easy for you to undress above the waist.

## **SPEAK UP**

Discuss any changes to your breasts with your health care provider before the exam

**Mammograms are fully covered** as preventive care for women over 40, and even earlier for those with higher risk.\*

# Talk to your doctor about breast health and scheduling a mammogram today!

## **BE CONSISTENT**

Choose a mammography specialist and stay with them to make image comparison easier. If you do switch providers, have your previous images sent to your new provider for comparison.

## **GET THE BEST-QUALITY IMAGES**

If you are under the age of 50, it can be best to get a 3D or digital mammogram. These take more images at different angles, while making it easier for doctors to enlarge images and take a closer look.

## **CONSIDER SPECIAL NEEDS**

If you have concerns about exam access due to a physical disability, call the mammography centers in your area until you find one that meets your needs. Your health care provider or health insurance plan may be able to help with your search.

Turn to Excellus BlueCross BlueShield for more resources on breast cancer detection and awareness. Because when women have the care and support they need to make health a priority, **everybody benefits**.

