

Delivering Quality Care - Breast Cancer Screening

To support quality care, we are providing information to providers and members to encourage discussions on health topics. Watch for more on health care quality in News and Updates.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death among women in the U.S., according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#). About [1 in 8 women](#) will get breast cancer at some point in her life. We encourage providers to talk with our members about the importance of regular screenings for women. We've created [some resources](#) that may help. Screening is the best way to find breast cancer early, when it's easier to treat, and may help reduce the risk of death.

Closing Care Gaps

[The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force](#) recommends that **women ages 50 to 74 be screened for breast cancer every two years**. You may want to discuss with members the risks and benefits of starting screening mammograms before age 50.

[Breast cancer screening](#) is also a Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) measure from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). The measure tracks women ages 50 to 74 who had at least one mammogram in the past two years. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas collects data from HEDIS measures to help assess and improve the quality of care our members receive.


See our [preventive care guidelines](#) on breast cancer screening.

Tips to Consider

- Talk with our members about breast cancer [risk factors and regular screenings for women](#).
- Document screenings in the medical record. Indicate the specific date and result.
- Document medical and surgical history in the medical record, including dates.
- Use correct diagnosis and procedure codes. Submit claims and encounter data in a timely manner.
- For [men who are at high risk](#), the American Cancer Society recommends [discussing with them how to manage risks](#).

The above material is for informational purposes only and is not a substitute for the independent medical judgment of a physician or other health care provider. Physicians and other health care providers are encouraged to use their own medical judgment based upon all available information and the condition of the patient in determining the appropriate course of treatment. The fact that a service or treatment is described in this material is not a guarantee that the service or treatment is a covered benefit and members should refer to their certificate of coverage for more details, including benefits, limitations and exclusions. Regardless of benefits, the final decision about any service or treatment is between the member and their health care provider.

HEDIS is a registered trademark of NCQA. Use of this resource is subject to NCQA's copyright, [found here](#).

 By clicking this link, you will go to a new website/app ("site"). This new site may be offered by a vendor or an independent third party. The site may also contain non-Medicare related information. In addition, some sites may require you to agree to their terms of use and privacy policy.