



Keeping abreast of diagnostic imaging and direct referral

As of February 2nd, there were two changes to breast imaging in Manitoba:

1. Patients are automatically referred and booked for further imaging and biopsy if indicated, at the recommendation of the radiologist doing the imaging (Direct Referral.) Primary care providers will be notified of the direct referral by fax with the imaging results, and will also be informed of the date & time of the next appointment, which could be as rapid as the same day at the same location or up to a week at a different location.

- It is recommended to **STOP** the practice of simultaneous referrals to a breast surgeon and diagnostic imaging, especially to Breast Health Centre, which is participating in the breast imaging direct referral process. Go to cancercare.mb.ca/diagnosis to see the **updated** pathway for the Work-up of Suspected Breast Cancer.
- Current timeline goals with the new process, with communication points for primary care are:

7 days (or less) to get diagnostic mammo or U/S	① Abnormal report: after mammo / ultrasound report received, only have <u>2-3 days</u> to inform patient they will be called for further testing
7 days (or less) to image-guided biopsy (from abnormal imaging)	① Tell patient to book a follow-up with you <u>nine days</u> from biopsy with support person
7 days for path report to come back	① Meet with patient to discuss biopsy results, possible diagnosis and preparation for surgical consult
7 days from path report to surgical consult (or 10 days from the time of U/S-guided core biopsy, if high suspicion)	

2. A new provincial form was introduced: 'Manitoba Provincial Breast Imaging Consultation Request'. This form is to be used for ordering any diagnostic test for breast imaging at regional and private imaging centres. This form does NOT include Breast MRI.

- Contact your EMR vendor to access the form AND **remove all other breast imaging forms** (except MRI) for private and RHA sites.
- Ensure the form is sent to the right location (e.g. Breast Health Centre does not accept requests for diagnostic mammograms and St. Boniface Hospital do not have mammography equipment.)

Diagnostic Centre	Mammography	Breast Ultrasound	Biopsies		Breast MRI Use MRI Form
			Ultrasound Guided	Stereotactic Guided	
Health Sciences Centre	✓				✓
Manitoba X-Ray	✓				
Radiology Consultants of Winnipeg	✓	✓			
Breast Health Centre		✓	✓	✓	
St. Boniface Hospital					✓
Boundary Trails Health Centre	✓	✓	✓		
Brandon Regional Health Centre	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thompson General Hospital	✓	✓			



Summary of Key Recommendations for Primary Care to changes in breast imaging:

- Ordering a diagnostic mammogram or breast ultrasound may trigger a direct referral – **forewarn patients of the chain of events and speed of follow-up testing**
- STOP sending a simultaneous referral to a breast surgeon with diagnostic imaging
- Try to contact patients (phone or face-to-face) within 2-3 days of receiving imaging reports, to notify them they will be called and booked for another test (usually image-guided biopsy)
 - Ask patients to book an appointment with you nine days following the biopsy to discuss the results
- For those patients that require extra support, a referral to Cancer Navigation Services, which includes Psychosocial Support clinicians, can be initiated at any time (cancercare.mb.ca/navigation)
- For all breast imaging requests to ALL PRIVATE and RHA SITES use the '**Manitoba Provincial Breast Imaging Consultation Request**' form.
- Contact the **CancerQuestion Helpline for Primary Care** if you have questions or concern (204 226-2262)