

PRACTICE CHANGE

Breast Cancer Screening Age of Eligibility

Effective: December 2025

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

BreastCheck is CancerCare Manitoba's provincial breast cancer screening program. BreastCheck has invited eligible people aged 50-74 to participate in breast cancer screening, provided screening mammograms to patients aged 50 and older, and referred patients to follow-up testing when required.

CHANGE IN PROCEDURE

BreastCheck is now accepting breast cancer screening appointments for people aged 45-49. Asymptomatic, average-risk people aged 45 and over can self-refer to BreastCheck by calling 1-855-952-4325.

The potential benefits and potential harms of breast cancer screening are different for people aged 45-49 compared to older patients. We encourage healthcare providers to have informed decision-making conversations with their patients to help them decide whether screening is right for them.

PATIENT IMPROVEMENTS:

- Eligible patients aged 45-49 can now participate in breast cancer screening at BreastCheck.
- Patients aged 45 and over can self-refer to BreastCheck. No healthcare provider referral is required.
- Screening mammograms can find breast cancer early, when there may be more treatment options and a better chance of a cure.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS:

- It is less expensive and potentially easier to treat breast cancers that are found at earlier stages.
- BreastCheck will be increasing capacity for breast cancer screening by adding mammogram appointments, screening locations, and equipment.
- Breast cancer diagnostic and treatment services will be added in the future to support the downstream impact of increased breast cancer screening.

FORMS AND SUPPORTING RESOURCES:

Visit cancercare.mb.ca/screening/hcp for the new breast cancer screening guidelines and other resources.

MORE INFORMATION:

For more information, contact BreastCheck at 1-855-952-4325 or visit cancercare.mb.ca/screening/hcp.

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