

City of Manchester
Important Notice - 3D Digital Mammograms
October, 2015

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and we wanted you to be informed about 3D Digital Mammograms. This is a relatively new technology that is being advertised in the media and some outpatient facilities. Before you have a conversation with your physician or schedule a mammogram, please read this information so you or a family member are not negatively impacted by the provider's coding and billing process.

- Many hospitals have purchased this new technology, and therefore some hospitals, due to this considerable investment, only offer the 3D mammogram.
- Historically, providers had included the 3D mammography within the traditional mammogram pricing. However, as of January 1, 2015, providers are now billing the 3D mammogram separately.
- Given this is still a relatively new technology, the benefits of which are still being studied, **insurance carriers including Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield consider the 3D mammogram as experimental/investigational.** This is based on the U.S. Preventative Task Force who stated there is not enough evidence to prove the technology is medically beneficial in comparison to traditional 2D mammography.
- **What does this mean to you?** Traditional mammograms will continue to be covered in full. However, the 3D component of the mammogram will be denied as experimental or investigational.

Note: Providers are handling this differently and we want you to be aware of this new information regarding the 3D mammograms.

- Some providers are not holding the member responsible for the additional cost for this service, and other providers are billing the member for the 3D component.
- Other providers are encouraging the patient to sign a waiver which may place the member liable for the 3D component.
- At the time a mammogram is scheduled, it may be prudent to ask how the provider handles the billing for a 3D mammogram, or if there is a choice to have a traditional mammogram.
- If there is no choice to have a traditional mammogram, or if you wish to have the 3D mammogram for any reason, please be aware that you may be liable for the 3D component.