

Women's Imaging Center

February 13, 2013

Dear Healthcare Provider,

As your partner in caring for women through breast cancer screening, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of new legislation that recently passed and will be in effect as of April 1, 2013.

Governor Jerry Brown signed a law that requires health care facilities to notify women categorized as having dense breast tissue about their condition. Senate Bill 1538 is designed to improve breast cancer detection and prevention by educating patients about dense breast tissue and how it could conceal possible abnormalities during mammographic procedures.

The new law requires us, as mammography providers, to include the following language in the post-exam report sent to patients identified as having dense breast tissue:

"Your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is common and is not abnormal. However, dense breast tissue can make it harder to evaluate the results of your mammogram and may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer."

"This information about the results of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness and to inform your conversations with your doctor. Together, you can decide which screening options are right for you. A report of your results was sent to your physician."

In addition to the written report, the new law requires Radiologists to inform women who have dense breast tissue that additional screening may be recommended.

We would like to proactively inform you of this change and offer assistance to you and your patients should the issue of dense breast tissue bring about additional questions. Typically, ultrasound and/or MRI breast screening may be used to supplement mammographic screening. If you would like to discuss this issue in general or have a particular patient, please know that we are here to work with you to ensure the best care for your patients.

We are already in compliance with this new law, so you may begin hearing inquiries from your patients.

We appreciate your referral business and continue to strive in serving you and your patients.

Sincerely,

Michael Stein, MD
Medical Director
Women's Imaging Center

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