

2022 Quality Study – Prior Mammogram Process Improvement

Describe the problem being studied:

A delay in Mammography results due to no previous studies for comparison.

Describe the criteria used to study the problem:

Women included in the study are all coming to Beaufort Memorial for the first time. They are using the Beaufort or Okatie locations for care. The patients have either filled out a release form ahead of time or fill it out at time of service. The women were all scheduled for a screening mammogram with no current breast issues or history of breast cancer.

Timeframe:

January 2022 – June 2022

What are the study findings:

- The 24 women in the sample range in age from 45-74
- The 24 women were of mixed ethnicity and socio-economic backgrounds
- Out of the 24, there were 8 patients whose images were never received
- Out of the 24, there were 3 patients whose images were received prior to the appointment
- One patient requested the mammogram be completed without receiving priors

On average the Radiologists at Beaufort Memorial compare the current mammogram to the last two mammograms for each patient and provide same-day results. Three of the 24 women followed the protocol and scheduled their mammogram after the images arrived from their previous facility and received negative results with no further work-up required. One patient was given a BI-RADS 0 requesting additional imaging, but opted to wait longer to see the previous arrived. Once the images did arrive, an addendum showed the patient did not need the additional imaging and was given a BI-RADS 2. The other 21 women waited an average of 10 days to receive results for their mammogram. All of the patients were given a BI-RADS 1 or 2 and should return in one year for a screening mammogram.

What action was taken at the completion of the study:

The Breast Health Centers located in Okatie and Beaufort have educated the schedulers on the importance of the patients having their prior mammograms when scheduling the current mammogram. We also educate patients on this topic at health fairs and speaking engagements throughout the year. We utilize our front desk employee to assist the patients in filling out the release forms prior to making an appointment and keep record to be able to track and follow up on those requests.