



Commonwealth of Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine

200 Harvard Mill Square, Suite 330
Wakefield, Massachusetts 01880
(781) 876-8200

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary
Health and Human Services

Enforcement Division Fax: (781) 876-8381
Legal Division Fax: (781) 876-8380
Licensing Division Fax: (781) 876-8383

January 22, 2015

Dear Physician:

RE: New Breast Density Notification Statute

The purpose of this Circular Letter is to inform physicians licensed by the Board of Registration in Medicine (BORIM) pursuant to 243 CMR 2.00 about a new law relating to breast density notification. Information for providers of mammography services licensed by the Department of Public Health (Department) pursuant to 105 CMR 127.000 will be provided by the Department under separate cover.

Chapter 150 of the acts of 2014 amends section 5Q of chapter 111 of the Massachusetts General Laws to add a requirement that all providers of mammography services provide written notification to a patient if an interpreting physician determines, based on standards promulgated by the American College of Radiology, that the patient has dense breast tissue.

The notification must include, at minimum, the following information:

- (1) that the patient's mammogram shows dense breast tissue;
 - (2) the degree of density apparent and an explanation of that degree of density;
 - (3) that dense breast tissue is common and not abnormal but that dense breast tissue may increase the risk of breast cancer;
 - (4) that dense breast tissue can make it more difficult to find cancer on a mammogram and that additional testing may be needed for reliable breast cancer screening;
 - (5) that additional screening may be advisable and that the patient should discuss the results of the mammogram with the patient's referring physician or primary care physician;
 - (6) that the patient has the right to discuss the results of the patient's mammogram with the interpreting radiologist or the referring physician;
 - (7) that a report of the patient's mammogram has been sent to the referring physician and will become part of the patient's medical record; and
 - (8) where the patient can find additional information about dense breast tissue.
-

Physicians may refer patients to the following website, where additional information regarding dense breast tissue, including the levels of breast density, is available:
www.mass.gov/dph/mammographyresults

Physicians with questions or concerns regarding this information may contact the Attorney of the Day at the Board of Registration in Medicine at 781-876-8200 or webmaster@medboard.org.

Very truly yours,

Barbara A. Piselli

Barbara A. Piselli
Acting Executive Director

CC: Eileen Sullivan
Acting Commissioner, Department of Public Health

BORIM Physician Notice 2015-01