

Health Care Provider Screening & Facility Tips

Schedulers should ask a patient if she ...

- needs accommodations—extra time or assistance.
- uses a wheelchair or scooter—are the chair arms removable or moveable?
- can sit upright without back support.
- can lift her arms to shoulder height.
- can independently transfer to another chair.

“People First” Communication

- Regardless of her disability, speak directly to the patient, *not to her companion or assistant.*
- Refer to the patient as a ...
 - woman/patient/person with a disability *not a disabled woman.*
 - woman/patient/person who uses a wheelchair/scooter/walker *not a wheelchair-bound woman.*

The Mammogram

- If necessary, ask another technologist to help with positioning.
- Use adaptations or alternate views to maximize tissue visualization.
- Work with the patient to find the best positions.
- The patient is the expert in her abilities; ask for directions and listen to her instructions.
- If the patient prefers, include her companion or assistant during positioning.



- Nicolette (Nickie) Fee,
Montana Right to Know
campaign spokesperson

“Go to the doctor;
even though you
get frustrated, go.
Never give up.”



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<http://everywomanmatters.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/EWM.html>



Every Woman Matters

Screening Saves Lives

BREAST HEALTH SCREENING
THE RIGHT TO KNOW

Breast Cancer & Disability

- **One in five** women in the U.S. has at least one disability.
- **Historically**, women with disabilities have been marginalized and disadvantaged, especially with regard to health care access.
- **Compared to** women without disabilities, women with disabilities have an equal or greater risk of having breast cancer.
- **Women with physical disabilities** are significantly less likely to have had recommended breast cancer screenings.
- **Fewer or inconsistent** screenings put women at risk for late-stage diagnosis and poor health outcomes.

Factors contributing to successful breast health screening for women with disabilities

- **Access to public** or private transportation.
- **Access to the facility:** zero step entrances; automatic front door; wide interior doors and halls; low reception counters; large waiting, examination and dressing rooms; accessible bathrooms.
- **Adaptable medical equipment:** wheelchair-friendly mammography machines, mammography chair, adjustable height exam table, etc.
- **Designated ADA parking spaces** for cars and lift-equipped vans at the front entrance.
- **Disability training** for health care providers.
- **Insurance coverage**

Accessibility & Equipment

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):**
 - Accessibility Guidelines: www.access-board.gov/adaag/html/adaag.htm
 - Access to Medical Care for Individuals with Mobility Disabilities: www.ada.gov/medicare_mobility_ta/medicare_ta.htm
 - Assessments and Tax Incentives: www.ada.gov/archive/taxpack.pdf
 - Communicating with People Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing in Hospital Settings: www.ada.gov/hospcombr.htm
- **Medical Equipment:** When purchasing new equipment, consider buying wheelchair-friendly x-ray units, and specialized mammography positioning chairs.

Accessibility & Equip. Cont.

- **Montana Centers for Independent Living (CILs):** www.bcm.edu/ilru/html/publications/directory/montana.html
- **Montana Mammography Directory:** Information for individuals and service providers about mammography facilities by city: hours of operation, bus routes, average costs, and accessibility details. Updated annually. <http://mtdh.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/mammography.htm>
- **North Carolina Office on Disability and Health: Removing Barriers to Health Care: A Guide for Health Professionals.** A resource on making medical facilities accessible. www.fpg.unc.edu/~ncodh/publications.cfm

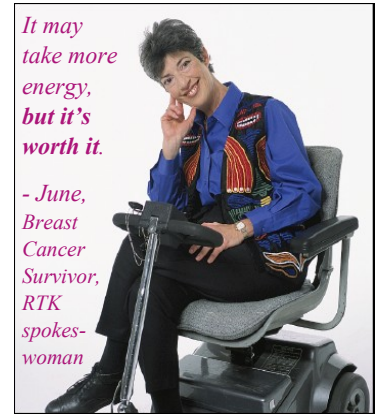
Training & Education

- **American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG):**
 - Reproductive Health Care for Women with Disabilities. www.acog.org/departments/dept_web.cfm?reco=38
 - Improving Access to Care for Women with Disabilities: Quick Reference on CPT Coding: For more information, e-mail: underservedwomen@acog.org
- **Breast Health Access for Women with Disabilities (BHAWD):** Offers Mammography Technologist Training for Women with Disabilities. www.bhawd.org
- **CDC's Right To Know Campaign:** Offers health promotion materials to increase awareness of breast cancer among women with physical disabilities and to encourage these women to get screened. www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/women/righttoknow/default.htm

Training & Education Cont.

- **Every Woman Matters: Portraits of Montana Women Living with Physical Disabilities.** A multi-media exhibit highlighting the importance of Breast Cancer Screening. <http://mtdh.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/EveryWomanMatters.htm>
- **MammaCare:** Provides tactually accurate breast models and evidence-based certification courses in performing and teaching Clinical Breast Examination and Breast Self-Examination. 800-626-2273. www.mammacare.com
- **Montana Cancer Screening Program:** Provides low cost or free mammograms, clinical breast exams, Pap tests and pelvic exams for eligible individuals. 888-803-9343. www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/cancer-control/Breast&Cerv-index.shtml
- **Registry For Interpreters For The Deaf:** www.rid.org
- **Women's Independence Through Health ~ Universal Screening Solutions:** <http://withuss.php.ufl.edu/photomapping.htm>
- **Women Be Healthy:** A curriculum designed for women with intellectual and developmental disabilities. www.fpg.unc.edu/~ncodh/pdfs/wbhealthy.pdf; boehm@ruralinstitute.umt.edu

It may take more energy, but it's worth it.
- June, Breast Cancer Survivor, RTK spokes-woman



Portions of this pamphlet have been adapted, with permission, from the Florida Office on Disability and Health's Radiology Professionals Tip Sheet.