**Every Woman Matters**

**The Right To Know**

**Screening Saves Lives**

**Breast Cancer & Disability**

1. **One in five women in the U.S. has   
   at least one disability.**
2. **Historically, women with disabilities have been marginalized and disadvantaged, especially with regard to health care access.**
3. **Compared to women without   
   disabilities, women with disabilities have an equal or greater risk of having breast cancer.**
4. **Women with physical disabilities are   
   significantly less likely to have had   
   recommended breast cancer   
   screenings.**
5. **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**

1. **Access to public or private transportation.**
2. **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.**
3. **Adaptable medical equipment: wheelchair-friendly mammography machines, mammography chair, adjustable height exam table, etc.**
4. **Designated ADA parking spaces for cars and**

**lift-equipped vans at the front entrance.**

1. **Disability training for health care providers.**
2. **Insurance coverage**

**Accessibility & Equipment**

**1. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):**

**Accessibility Guidelines:**

[**www.access-board.gov/adaag/html/adaag.htm**](http://www.access-board.gov/adaag/html/adaag.htm)

**Access to Medical Care for Individuals with Mobility Disabilities:** [**www.ada.gov/medcare\_mobility\_ta/  
medcare\_ta.htm**](http://www.ada.gov/medcare_mobility_ta/medcare_ta.htm)

**Assessments and Tax Incentives:**

[**www.ada.gov/archive/taxpack.pdf**](http://www.ada.gov/archive/taxpack.pdf)

**Communicating with People Who Are Deaf   
or Hard of Hearing in Hospital Settings:**

[**www.ada.gov/hospcombr.htm**](http://www.ada.gov/hospcombr.htm)

**2. Medical Equipment:**

**When purchasing new equipment, consider buying wheelchair-friendly x-ray units, and specialized mammography positioning chairs.**

**3. Montana Centers for Independent   
Living (CILs): www.bcm.edu/ilru/html/  
publications/directory/montana.html**

**4. 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.**](http://mtdh.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/mammography.htm)**ruralinstitute**[**.**](http://mtdh.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/mammography.htm)**umt**[**.**](http://mtdh.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/mammography.htm)**edu/mammography.htm**

**5. 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**](http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~ncodh/publications.cfm)

**Training & Education**

**1. American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG):**

**Reproductive Health Care for Women with Disabilities. www.acog.org/departments/dept\_web.cfm?recno=38**

**Improving Access to Care for Women with Disabilities: Quick Reference on CPT Coding: For more information, e-mail: underservedwomen**[**@**](mailto:underservedwomen@acog.org)**acog**[**.org**](mailto:underservedwomen@acog.org)

**2. Breast Health Access for Women with Disabilities (BHAWD): Offers Mammography Technologist Training for Women with Disabilities. www.bhawd.org**

**3. 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**

**4. 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**

**5. 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**

**6. 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-ontrol/  
Breast&Cerv-index.shtml**

**7. Registry For Interpreters For The Deaf: www.rid.org**

**8. Women’s Independence Through Health ~ Universal Screening Solutions:**[**http://withuss.phhp.ufl.edu/photomapping.htm**](http://withuss.phhp.ufl.edu/photomapping.htm)

**9. 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**](mailto:boehm@ruralinstitute.umt.edu)

**Photo of June, a breast cancer survivor, RTC spokeswoman with the quote “It may take more energy, but it’s worth it.”**

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

**Health Care Provider Screening & Facility Tips**

**Schedulers should ask a patient if she …**

**1. needs accommodations—extra time   
or assistance.**

**2. uses a wheelchair or scooter—are the   
chair arms removable or moveable?**

**3. can sit upright without back support.**

**4. can lift her arms to shoulder height.**

**5. can independently transfer to another   
chair.**

**“People First” Communication**

**1. Regardless of her disability, speak directly to the patient, not to her companion or assistant.**

**2. 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**

**1. If necessary, ask another technologist to help with positioning.**

**2. Use adaptations or alternate views to maximize tissue visualization.**

**3. Work with the patient to find the best positions.**

**4. The patient is the expert in her abilities; ask for directions and listen to her instructions.**

**5. If the patient prefers, include her companion or assistant during positioning.**

***Go to the doctor; even though you get frustrated, go. Never give up.” - Nicolette (Nickie) Fee, Montana Right to Know campaign spokesperson***

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**Our work is supported by CDC grant #5U59DD000287-04 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Opinions expressed are the author’s and do not necessarily reflect those of the funding agency.**