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.

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.
**Accessibility & Equipment**

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):**
  - Access to Medical Care for Individuals with Mobility Disabilities: [www.ada.gov/medicare_mobility_ta/medicare_ta.htm](http://www.ada.gov/medicare_mobility_ta/medicare_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)
  - Medical Equipment: When purchasing new equipment, consider buying wheelchair-friendly x-ray units, and specialized mammography positioning chairs.

- **Training & Education Cont.**

  - **American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG):**
    - 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](http://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](http://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](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](http://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-controls/index.shtml](http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/cancer-controls/index.shtml)

- **Registry For Interpreters For The Deaf:** [www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org)

- **Women’s Independence Through Health ~ Universal Screening Solutions:** [http://withuss.phhp.ufl.edu/photomapping.htm](http://withuss.phhp.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](http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~ncodh/pdfs/wbhealthy.pdf); boehm@ruralinstitute.umt.edu

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