

Cancer Screening Tip of the Month – Summer 2023

Toronto Central Regional Cancer Program, Cancer Screening eBulletin

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Changes to Breast (Chest) Density Reporting and Notification in the Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP)

Effective July 24, 2023, the Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP) updated its breast (chest) density notification practices to report breast (chest) density as **Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System (BI-RADS) only**, rather than the previous percent mammographic density $\geq 75\%$ and BI-RADS. The OBSP is using the BI-RADS categories to align with best practices in radiology reporting.

Effective July 24, 2023:

- OBSP participants with **BI-RADS Category D** are now recalled in one year.
 - This is a change from the previous one-year recall recommendation that was based on percent mammographic density $\geq 75\%$.
- Patients in the OBSP with normal screening results will receive a letter from Ontario Health that will include their BI-RADS breast (chest) density and they will also receive a breast (chest) density fact sheet.
- Primary care providers will continue to receive a copy of their patients' OBSP screening mammogram reports from OBSP sites. These reports have been updated to include patients' BI-RADS breast (chest) density results.

Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System (BI-RADS) Categories:

There are four BI-RADS breast (chest) density categories. "BI-RADS A" has the least amount of dense tissue and "BI-RADS D" has the most amount of dense tissue. The BI-RADS breast (chest) density categories are not associated with a percentage of dense tissue within the breast (chest).

- **Category A:** the breasts are almost entirely fatty
- **Category B:** there are scattered areas of fibroglandular density
- **Category C:** the breasts are heterogeneously dense, which may obscure small masses
- **Category D:** the breasts are extremely dense, which lowers the sensitivity of mammography

People with a BI-RADS category of A, B or C are recalled by the OBSP every two years. Patients may be referred sooner if there are other reasons for a patient to return for screening earlier (e.g., family history of breast cancer, estrogen use, history of high risk pre-cancerous lesions, etc.).

For more information regarding breast (chest) density and the OBSP click [here](#).

Questions? If you have any questions or if you would no longer like to receive the Cancer Screening Tip of the Month please email the Toronto Central Regional Cancer Program, Cancer Screening team: info@TCcancerscreening.ca