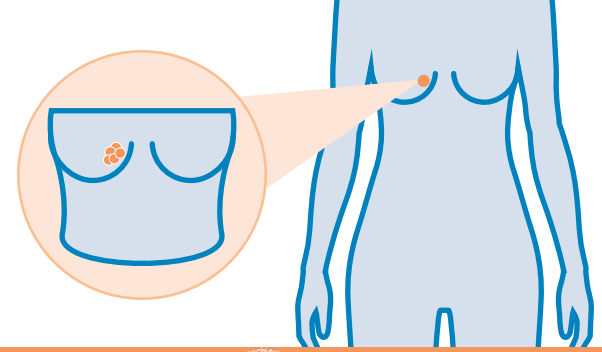


BREAST CANCER SCREENING



PATIENT EDUCATION FACT SHEET



SHOULDER to SHOULDER
Every Step of the Way

VA recommends routine screenings for breast cancer to improve disease outcomes. The earlier the cancer is detected, the more successful the cancer treatment can be.

What is breast cancer screening?

Breast cancer occurs when cells in your breast grow abnormally. When these cells grow out of control, they form a mass called a tumor. A tumor can be cancerous (malignant) or benign (non-cancerous). A mammogram provides an X-ray of the breast and is the best way to find breast cancer for most adults. If mammography is not available at your local VA Medical Center, ask to be referred to another VA that has mammography, or out to Community Care.



Who should get screened?

- Women aged 40-74 should get screened every other year starting at age 40 to reduce their risk of dying from breast cancer.
- Women Veterans will have the option to screen annually if they would like to do so.
- Women 75 or older, should talk with their provider before making a decision to be screened. Requests to be screened beyond age 75 will be honored following a discussion about the risks and benefits of screening.

What are my next steps for breast cancer screening?

- ✓ Ask your doctor about your individual risk level and options for breast cancer screening. Learn more about recommended screenings here: go.usa.gov/xFvyg
- ✓ Learn more at cancer.va.gov or email cancer@va.gov
- ✓ Share this information with other Veterans. You just might save a life.

Localized breast cancer has a



99%

SURVIVAL RATE
if detected early

Approximately

700

VETERANS enrolled in VA
healthcare are diagnosed
with breast cancer each year