



Department of Radiology
Raymond and Ruth Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine
Civic Center Boulevard, 1st Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Patient Prep & Instruction Manual

Scheduled Test: Breast Imaging - Diagnostic

Date: _____

Time: _____

Where: You will report to Outpatient Radiology Reception (ground floor of the Perelman Center).

Purpose: A mammogram is an x-ray of the breast. A specialist, called a radiologist, will read the mammogram to see if there are any suspicious areas.

Preparation: A woman who has very tender breasts might want to take Tylenol an hour before she comes in for her mammogram. This might help alleviate some of the discomfort she could experience during the test.

If you have had previous mammograms at another institution, please bring those mammograms with you on the day of the exam so that they can be compared with the mammogram being done that day.

Procedure: This test takes between 20-60 minutes depending on the exact exam being performed.

A mammogram is an x-ray picture of the breast taken with a special machine that uses a small amount of radiation. A specially trained technologist positions your breast between two plastic plates. For a few seconds, pressure is applied to flatten the breast and get a good, clear picture. Two pictures are usually taken of each breast. If any additional imaging is needed the technologist will explain thoroughly why this is necessary. Some women report discomfort, but it lasts a few seconds and a firm compression is an important part of a quality exam.

Please do not bring children to the mammography section. Necessary arrangements must be made.

After Care: After your test you may resume your normal activities. Your attending Physician will discuss the results of the mammogram with you. Please call a nurse coordinator at (215) 349-5469, if you have any questions.