



January 26, 2015

**To:** Primary Care/ Ordering Physicians, Breast Imaging Centres  
**From:** In Sixty Diagnostic Working Group  
**Re:** **Direct Referral for Breast Imaging**

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As part of Manitoba's In Sixty Cancer Patient Journey Initiative, patients requiring diagnostic breast imaging will now benefit from a Direct Referral process. **This process will come into effect on February 2, 2015.**

**What is Direct Referral?:** Breast imaging patients requiring more tests following an imaging appointment will be directly referred to their next appointment. The radiologist will include the following in their report: what test is needed, where it will be performed and the level of suspicion.

**Impacts:** Direct referral for breast imaging will benefit patients by ensuring they receive a faster diagnosis. Family physicians and nurse practitioners will no longer be required to initiate a referral for ultrasound and/or biopsy in follow up of an abnormal diagnostic mammogram – the radiologist will do that on your behalf; this in turn will reduce the time to diagnosis. Primary care providers will receive the initial report stating next test needed, where it will be performed and level of suspicion.

It is possible that some patient requests for appointments may need to be accommodated on short notice, because of the expedited diagnostic process. Many patients prefer to discuss breast imaging results with their regular primary care provider first, prior to attending a surgical consult, even if a pending surgical consultation has already been arranged.

**NEW Provincial Breast Imaging Requisition Form:** To support Direct Referral for Breast Imaging, a new Provincial Breast Imaging Form has been developed.

The new form will be accepted at any site in Manitoba that performs diagnostic breast imaging services. The form will also guide ordering physicians or nurse practitioners in assessing the level of urgency in accordance with the clinical pathway developed for breast cancer.

To access the **new requisition form** (attached), an **FAQ on Direct Referral for health care providers** (attached) or to find out how to order **patient brochures** designed to support primary care providers in communicating the new process for breast imaging with patients, please visit: [dsmanitoba.ca/medical-practitioners/reference-material](http://dsmanitoba.ca/medical-practitioners/reference-material) or call DSM's Client Services at 1-866-633-1787.

The IN SIXTY Diagnostic Working Group (DWG) is responsible for improving the diagnosis phase of the cancer patient journey. Members of the DWG include: Diagnostic Services Manitoba, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Manitoba X-Ray, Radiology Consultants of Winnipeg, Brandon Regional Hospital, Breast Check, Breast Health Centre, Manitoba Health.