Breast Cancer Screening (BCS)
Effectiveness of Care HEDIS® Measure

Breast cancer is the second most common type of cancer among women in the United States, specifically among women over age 50. Breast cancer is also the second leading cause of cancer-related death. Detecting breast cancer early, through regular screening tests, and receiving timely cancer treatments are the most effective strategies to prevent death from breast cancer.

HEDIS MEASURE DEFINITION
Women ages 50-74 who had a mammogram to screen for breast cancer in the past 2 years.

EXCLUSIONS FROM THE HEDIS MEASURE
Patients are excluded if they:
- Have a history of bilateral mastectomy
- Are in hospice any time during the measurement year
- Live long-term in an institution
- Are enrolled in an institutional skilled nursing facility (SNF)
- Are age 66 and older with advanced illness and frailty (For additional definition information, see the Advanced Illness and Frailty Exclusions Guide)

INFORMATION PATIENT MEDICAL RECORDS SHOULD INCLUDE
- Date of the mammogram
- Results of the mammogram, which can help determine if the patient followed through with testing

INFORMATION PATIENT CLAIMS SHOULD INCLUDE
If the patient met exclusion criteria, include the following ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes on the claim as appropriate:
- Z90.13 - Acquired absence of bilateral breasts and nipples
- Z90.12 - Acquired absence of left breast and nipple
- Z90.11 - Acquired absence of right breast and nipple

TIPS FOR TALKING WITH PATIENTS
- Educate patients about the importance of routine screening:
  - Mammograms are the most effective method for detecting breast cancer when it’s typically the
most treatable in early stages.
  o 85-90 percent of cancers are detectable with high-quality equipment and well-trained radiologists. v
  o Many women with breast cancer don’t have symptoms; which underscores the importance of regular breast cancer screening. vi

- Remind patients that preventive breast cancer screenings are legally covered under U.S. health care reform and the Affordable Care Act.
- Explain the recommended frequency of routine mammograms:
  o At least once every 24 months for all women ages 50-74.
  o Depending on risk factors, mammograms (screening, diagnostic, film, digital, or digital breast tomosynthesis) may be done more frequently.

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i HEDIS is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).
iii Peter Bach et al. HEDIS 2019 Technical Specifications for Health Plans (National Committee for Quality Assurance 2018), 83-86
iv ICD-10-CM created by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), under authorization by the World Health Organization. World Health Organization-copyright holder.