



## **INFORMATION NOTICE 2017-02**

**November 2017**

### **Breast Density Reporting Requirements**

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Governor Terry Branstad signed into law Senate File 250, which amended Iowa Code chapter 136C. 641 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 41.6 was then amended to reflect these new regulations and these rules became effective on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

The new Administrative Rule requires the information regarding the patient's breast density composition to be included in all physician mammogram reports and all result lay letters sent to patients.

While these requirements are currently effective, IDPH understands that facilities may need some time to make system changes and select appropriate wording and references to meet the requirements of the rules. Facilities are expected to be actively working on implementation of these rules, with a goal for full implementation no later than March 1, 2018.

These new rules require facilities to include information on a patient's breast density within the written report of each mammography examination performed at their facility. This will be categorized by the interpreting physician, based on standards as defined by nationally recognized guidelines or systems for breast imaging reporting, including the American College of Radiology's BIRADs classification system.

The breast density information from the written report must also be included in the patient result lay letter with reference to a website or document where the patient can obtain more information about breast density. For patients categorized as having heterogeneously dense or extremely dense breasts, the notification shall also include information regarding the risk associated with dense breast tissue and the effects of dense breast tissue on screening mammography.

Note, facilities will be allowed to select the informational references most appropriate for their patient population, but should ensure that they are from a reputable medical source. The IDPH Mammography Program staff will, at the time of annual inspection, evaluate the reports and letters to ensure that they include all of the required components. Additionally, the educational references will be evaluated at that same time.

During the 2018 inspection cycle, the focus of the IDPH will be to provide guidance on the adequacy of the facility's work toward implementation of the new report and letter language.

IDPH will continue to work with stakeholder groups to support mammography facilities' understanding and compliance of the new rules, as well as education for other healthcare providers and patients who will receive this newly required breast density information.

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/ACO/chapter/641.41.pdf>