



DIVISION OF FAMILY MEDICINE  
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Dear **Medicare** beneficiary:

March 22, 1991

The UCLA Community Mammography Project is writing to all of you in Culver City and Inglewood who are female Medicare beneficiaries. We wish to update you on several important issues regarding breast cancer screening, its importance to you, and its cost.

**NEW MEDICARE BENEFIT:**

- \* **Medicare** beneficiaries are now covered for **screening mammograms** every other year as of January 1991. The 1991 fee limit is set at \$55, which means Medicare will pay a maximum of 80% of \$55, or \$44. The previous benefit was coverage for diagnostic mammograms only.

**MAMMOGRAM AVAILABILITY IN CULVER CITY AND INGLEWOOD:**

- \* A **facility guide** is enclosed that lists facilities in your community that offer mammograms. Their cost and whether the facility accepts Medicare patients is some of the information included.
- \* If you wish to wait to obtain your mammogram, the Los Angeles American Cancer Society will again make available **low cost** (\$55) mammograms in Los Angeles in October, the National Breast Cancer Awareness month. Look for publicity about this event or call the American Cancer Society in your community in September for more information. (213-772-8200) Remember: Current American Cancer Society recommendations are that women over age 50 get annual mammograms.

**STATISTICS ABOUT BREAST CANCER AND OLDER WOMEN:**

- \* It is now unfortunately true that **1 out of 9** American women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. This increased incidence rate (it was 1 in 10) means that it is even more important that you get screened regularly.
- \* Breast cancer, a disease of aging, increases in new cases until women are in their 80s. The American Cancer Society estimates that there were 150,000 new cases of invasive, less curable, breast cancers in 1990 and that half of these cases were in women age 65 and older. Do not be one of them in 1991 -- **get a screening mammogram this year.** This is the most effective way to diagnose breast cancer before it becomes invasive.

Sincerely,

*Sarah Fox*

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 Assistant Professor  
 of Family Medicine

*Mary Farrenkopf*

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 UCLA Community Mammography Project

EXAMPLE

