Breast Ordering Guidelines

Based on American College of Radiology (ACR) Guidelines

Reason for Exam	Patient Age	Order/Recommendation
Patient has new breast symptom(s) (e.g., lump, nipple discharge, skin changes, focal pain)	29 years and younger	Breast Ultrasound Limited + Diagnostic Mammogram
	30 years and older	Diagnostic Mammogram + Breast Ultrasound Limited
Patient is high risk but has NO symptoms (genetic mutation, elevated lifetime risk, or significant first-degree family history)	Under 25	No breast imaging is recommended
	25-29	Annual Breast MRI may begin, based on risk assessment
	30-39	Annual Screening Mammogram + Annual Breast MRI may begin, based on risk assessment
	40 and older	Annual Screening Mammogram with any recommended follow-up imaging. Supplemental Breast MRI may be ordered.
Patient is average risk with NO symptoms	40 and older	Annual Screening Mammogram with any recommended follow-up imaging. Supplemental Breast MRI may be ordered if patient has dense breasts.
Patient has bilateral mastectomy with NO new symptoms	Any age	No routine breast imaging recommended
Patient has bilateral mastectomy + new breast/chest palpable or pain	Any age	Breast Ultrasound Limited + Diagnostic Mammogram
Female patient has new axillary lump	Any age	Diagnostic Mammogram + Axillary Ultrasound – specify side
Male patient has new axillary lump	Any age	Axillary Ultrasound – specify side
Male patient with new breast symptom(s) (Not clinically consistent with gynecomastia)	Any age	Diagnostic Mammogram + Breast Ultrasound Limited

Important Reminders

- Please include the specific area of concern, side, location, and relevant clinical history on orders.
- No breast imaging is recommended by the ACR for cyclical, non-focal breast pain without other suspicious clinical findings. Continue to order routine annual screening mammography as age appropriate.
- Dense Breasts: Supplemental Breast MRI may be ordered based on risk assessment. If MRI is contraindicated or denied by insurance, may order Bilateral Complete Breast Ultrasound.
- Asymptomatic patients with a history of breast cancer that have not had a mastectomy, **should** return to Screening Mammography beginning the 3rd year after cancer diagnosis.