



# Are you up to date?

## Regular breast cancer checks and self-exams can help you stay healthy

It's too easy to put off your health screenings when you're busy. But regular breast exams should be a part of every woman's wellness plan — even if you don't have a family history of breast cancer.<sup>1</sup> Regular checks can help find breast cancer early, when it is easier to treat — and beat!<sup>2</sup>

### Screenings can help you protect yourself

- 1. Be aware of the signs and symptoms.** A lump, swelling, pain, discharge, or skin changes are signs that should be checked by a doctor.<sup>3</sup>
- 2. Know how to do a breast self-exam.** This is a check-up a woman can do at home to look for changes or problems in the breast tissue.
- 3. Have regular checkups.** A yearly clinical breast exam by a doctor or other health professional is an important screening tool.
- 4. Get a yearly mammogram, and remind the women around you to do so as well.** A mammogram is an X-ray of the breast tissue, using very low levels of radiation. Your age, family history, and other risk factors determine when you should start. **Talk with your doctor to find out what is right for you.**

**Regular screenings are important.** Survival rates for breast cancer are very high — especially when it's caught early. The five year survival rate for breast cancer in stages 0, 1 or 2 is between 93% and 100%.<sup>2</sup>

### Have you had any of these three tests recently?

Type of Test	Who performs it?	How is it done?	What to look for?
<b>Breast self-exam (BSE)</b>	Yourself	By carefully checking your breast with your hand	Lumps or anything else that may seem unusual
<b>Clinical breast exam (CBE)</b>	A doctor or other health professional	By carefully feeling the breast and under your arms	Lumps or anything else that may seem unusual
<b>Mammogram</b>	A doctor or other health professional	By taking a low-dose X-ray picture of the breast. The amount of radiation used is very low, so the risk of any harm is extremely small.	Along with a CBE, a mammogram can help your doctor can find breast cancer at an early stage when it can best be treated.



Sources:

American Cancer Society website, cancer.org, unless otherwise stated.

1. National Breast Cancer Foundation website: Myths (accessed April 2016): nationalbreastcancer.org.

2. American Cancer Society website: Breast cancer survival rates, by stage (accessed April 2016): cancer.org.

3. American Cancer Society website: Signs and symptoms of breast cancer (accessed April 2016): cancer.org.

Anthem Blue Cross is the trade name of Blue Cross of California. Anthem Blue Cross and Anthem Blue Cross Life and Health Insurance Company are independent licensees of the Blue Cross Association. ANTHEM is a registered trademark of Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc. The Blue Cross name and symbol are registered marks of the Blue Cross Association.

28818CAMEABC VPOD Rev. 8/16



## What happens during a mammogram?

- A technician uses a machine to take a few pictures of your breasts by placing each breast between two X-ray panels.
- The panels will push your breast closer between the panels to get a clear picture.
- Each X-ray picture takes less than one minute.

## Who should get one?

All women who are age 40 and up. Please talk to your doctors about how often you should get a mammogram. You should know that 70% - 80% of breast cancers occur in women who have no family history of breast cancer. And the chance of getting breast cancer is greater as women age. So it's important for each woman to discuss her family history with her doctor.

## You might need to get a mammogram before age 40 if any of the following apply to you:

- Family history of breast cancer
- Personal history of breast cancer or other breast problems

**Go to [anthem.com/ca](https://www.anthem.com/ca) for more ways to get healthy and stay healthy.**

### Make sure the test you're getting is covered

Many facilities are now offering 3-D mammograms; however, 3-D mammograms are not a covered benefit. Data is lacking on 3-D versus 2-D mammograms with regards to improving the detection of cancer. If you have questions, call customer service at the number listed on your ID card.

