

CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MAMMOGRAPHY EXAMINATIONS TO MANAGE AXILLARY ADENOPATHY IN PATIENTS WITH RECENT COVID- 19 VACCINATION



Objective:

To establish guidelines for physicians who order screening mammogram studies within the Medical Imaging program.

Considerations for patients and providers scheduling screening exams:

- All requests for breast imaging should be directed to Medical Imaging at Eastern Health. A fully completed Medical Imaging Request must be forwarded to facility nearest to the patient's location.
- Consider providing the following information on request forms: COVID-19 vaccination status, timing and side (left vs. right arm) of vaccination.
- If possible, and when it does not unduly delay care, consider scheduling screening exams prior to the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccination or 4-6 weeks following the second dose of a COVID-19 vaccination. As more information about the incidence and appearance of axillary lymphadenopathy following COVID19 vaccination becomes available, it may be appropriate to change the duration of follow up or final assessment recommendations.

Considerations for management of axillary adenopathy in patients with recent COVID-19 vaccination:

- Unilateral axillary adenopathy on screening exams warrants a BI-RADS category 0 assessment to allow for further assessment of the ipsilateral breast and documentation of medical history, including COVID19 vaccination. Following appropriate diagnostic work up for unilateral axillary adenopathy in women who received a COVID-19 vaccination in the ipsilateral upper extremity within the preceding 4 weeks, consider a short term follow up exam in 4-12 weeks (BI-RADS category 3) following the second vaccine dose. If axillary adenopathy persists after short term follow up, then consider lymph node sampling to exclude breast and non-breast malignancy.

