

# BREAST CANCER: SCREENING MAMMOGRAPHY

## Where we've been...

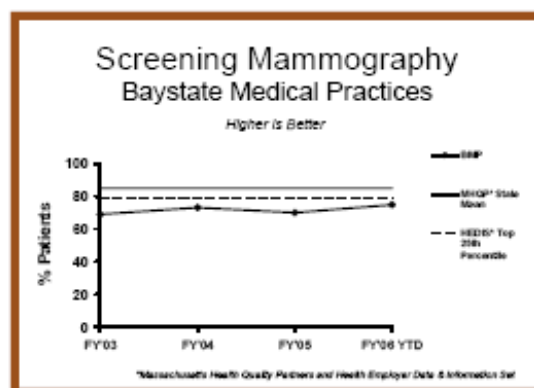
**I**t is estimated that over 200,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer annually and it is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in women today. More than 70% of women diagnosed with breast cancer have no identifiable risk factors. Current guidelines from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the American Cancer Society (ACS), the American Medical Association (AMA), and the American College of Radiology (ACR) recommend screening mammography every year for women, beginning at age 40. This measure, based on the guidelines, was developed by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and adopted by HEDIS to compare health plans and drive quality improvement. The Massachusetts Health Quality Partners (MHQP), a broad-based coalition of health care providers, health plans, consumers, and government agencies, measure the performance of Massachusetts primary care physicians on a variety of preventive and chronic care services and report their findings to the public.

The Baystate Medical Practices (BMP) Performance Improvement Program aligns key health maintenance and clinical care indicators with HEDIS and MHQP measures. Based on current performance, areas for improvement are selected. Strategies based on best practices are developed and incorporated into practice. Interventions to improve the mammography rate include providing written educational materials, scheduling screening mammography for the patient, following up on "no-shows," and consistent use of the Health Maintenance Record.

To assess our performance, a random sampling of charts of eligible patients was completed. The sample size was the standard set in the Performance Improvement Plan. The record was reviewed for evidence that screening mammography was performed in the past 24 months.

## Where we are now...

**BAYSTATE MEDICAL PRACTICES** Seventy-five percent of patients reviewed had a mammography completed within the previous 24 months, which is lower than the MHQP state mean (85%) and the top 25<sup>th</sup> HEDIS benchmark (79%).



## Where we are going...

Focused interventions based on best practices resulted in mammography rate improvements for this year. Practice sites will continue to emphasize work around best practices to drive quality improvement. Focus will continue around heightened awareness, outreach, and avenues to provide early access for mammography screening.