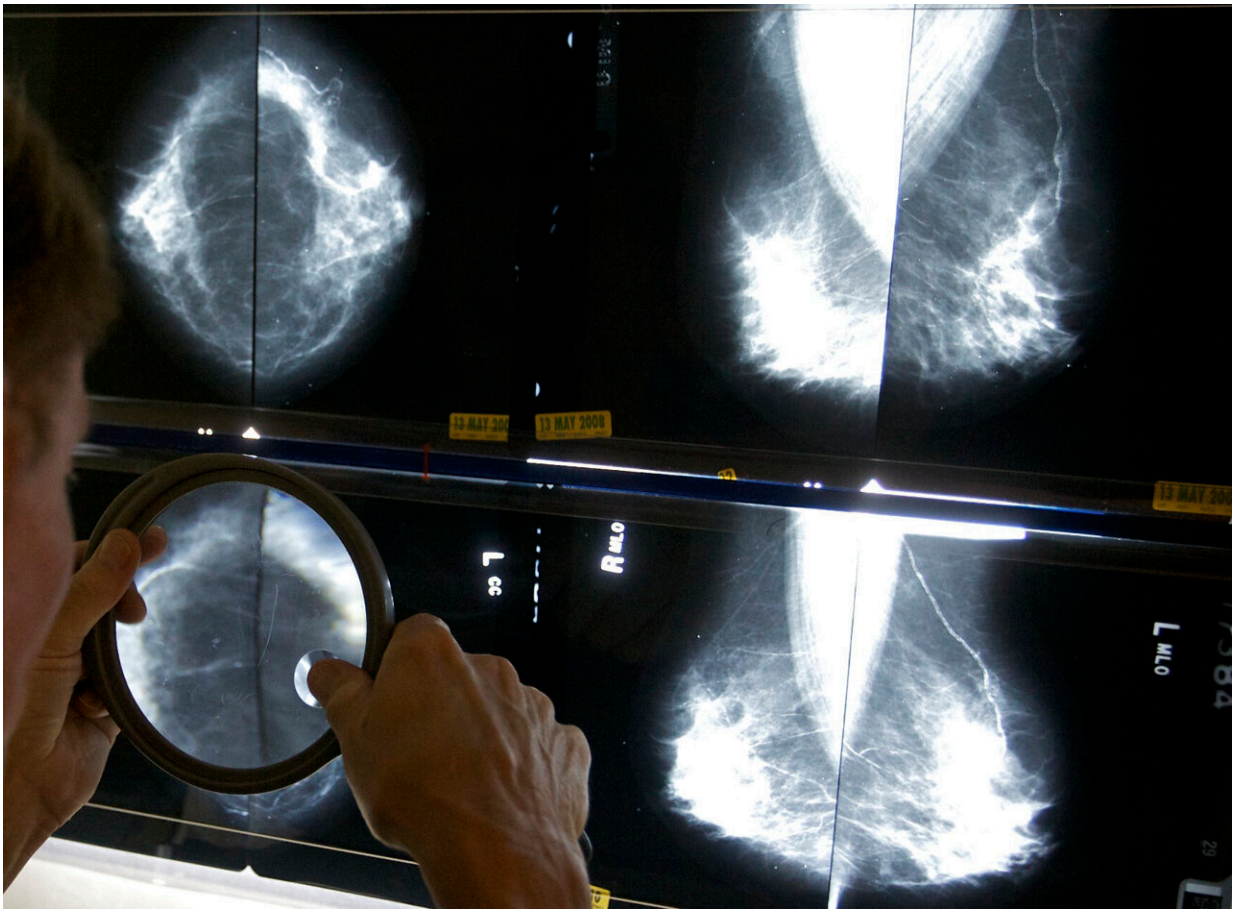


US requires new info on breast density with all mammograms

March 9 2023, by Matthew Perrone



A radiologist uses a magnifying glass to check mammograms for breast cancer in Los Angeles, May 6, 2010. U.S. women getting mammograms will soon receive information about their breast density, which can sometimes make cancer harder to spot, under government rules finalized Thursday, March 9, 2023. Credit: AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes, File

All U.S. women getting mammograms will soon receive information about their breast density, which can sometimes make cancer harder to spot.

The new requirements, finalized Thursday by the [Food and Drug Administration](#), are aimed at standardizing the information given to millions of women following scans to detect breast cancer. Regulators first proposed the changes in 2019 and [health care providers](#) will have 18 months to comply with the policy.

Some states already require that women receive information on [breast density](#).

About half of women over age 40 have dense breasts, with less fatty tissue and more connective and glandular tissue. That tissue appears white on X-rays, the same color as growths in the breast, making mammograms harder to read. Dense breast tissue is one of the factors that can increase a woman's chances of developing cancer.

Under the new rules, women with dense breasts will receive a written memo alerting them that their status "makes it harder to find [breast cancer](#)." Those patients will also be directed to speak with their doctor about their results.

Professional guidelines don't specify next steps for women identified with [dense breasts](#), but some physicians may recommend additional forms of scanning, including ultrasound or MRI.

© 2023 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed without permission.

Citation: US requires new info on breast density with all mammograms (2023, March 9) retrieved 12 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-03-requires-info-breast->

[density-mammograms.html](#)

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.