

Date: September 30, 2024

To: All WellSense Providers

From: WellSense Health Plan

Subject: **The importance of breast cancer screenings**

Product: MassHealth Clarity plans (formerly QHP) Senior Care Options

The importance of breast cancer screenings

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which is an ideal opportunity to remind members about the importance of regular breast cancer screenings.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that about 240,000 women in the United States are diagnosed with breast cancer every year. The CDC stresses that routine breast cancer screenings are the most effective way to detect the disease early. Early detection makes treatment easier and more successful.

Screening recommendations

[The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force](#) recommends that women ages 40 to 74 have a breast cancer screening every two years. It also may be helpful to talk to members about the benefits and potential risks of starting mammogram screenings before age 50.

Tips to close care gaps

- Talk with members about breast cancer risk factors and the importance of regular screenings for women.
- For men at high risk, the American Cancer Society recommends [discussing the risk factors for breast cancer for men.](#)

Provider Communications

Massachusetts



- Record screenings in the electronic medical records of members, including the specific date and results. This allows us to monitor the progress of members in the [HEDIS Breast Cancer Screening \(BCS-E\) measure](#), which assesses women ages 50 to 74 who had at least one mammogram in the past two years.
- Offer telehealth services when available and appropriate for preventive care appointments.

For more information about the HEDIS BCS-E measure and other key HEDIS measures, please visit our [Quality resources for providers](#) section at wellsense.org.

Questions?

Please contact us at QualityDept@wellsense.org with any questions.