

Policy Title: Breast Screening Standard for Hard Copy (Printed) Digital Images	
Section: Quality Management	Reference No. SG-DG 200
Effective: March 2008	Revision: February 2013, February 2018

1. SCOPE

Breast Screening Program Chief Radiologists
Breast Screening Program Chief Technologists
Breast Screening Quality Assurance Support Group
Radiology Managers

2. POLICY

Printers that have Health Canada or FDA approval for mammography can be utilized and must use film specifically designed for mammography.

1. Sites must have the ability to print FFDM of final interpretation quality to film if so requested.¹
2. Images should be printed to match the “true size.”
3. Printers should have DICOM and IHE conformance² including the following standards:
 - a. Be capable of true size printing with a precision of a maximum 2% error in linear distance
 - b. Be capable of printing with a border between the chest wall edge of the digital mammography image and the physical edge of the film no greater than 5mm, so that the printed images can be hung on a light box with the chest wall edges of corresponding views directly abutted.
 - c. Be capable of applying the Maximum Density attribute (2010, 0130) in the print request, and printing with a maximum optical density no less than 3.5.
 - d. Be capable of receiving a pixel data bit depth of 12 bits (an 8 bit path is not sufficient for mammography).
4. Images that are printed of “final Interpretation” quality may be used for interpretation.
5. All printers used must comply with a quality assurance program as recommended by the Breast Screening Quality Assurance Support Group.

3. RELATED POLICIES

4. RESPONSIBLE PARTY

Breast Screening Quality Management Committee

¹ ACR Practice Guideline for Determinants of Image Quality in Digital Mammography. Effective 10/01/07

² IHE Radiology: Mammography User’ Handbook. Effective 3/27/07