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| <b>Policy Title:</b> Comparison with Previous Images |                             |
| <b>Section:</b> Results                              | <b>Reference No.</b> SD 030 |
| <b>Effective:</b> March 1998                         |                             |

## 1. SCOPE

## 2. POLICY

*Prior to reporting a screening mammogram as abnormal, previous images, either screening or outside mammograms should be obtained for comparison. This will reduce reporting of abnormal results and reduce unnecessary anxiety and stress for women.*

## 3. PROCEDURE

Women indicating the presence of previous images at another centre or outside images should be informed that result reporting may be delayed to allow for comparison.

Previous images should be requested before calling a result “abnormal”. If not received within 4 days, the clerical staff should follow-up. All reasonable attempts will be made to obtain previous images if a suspected abnormality might be resolved with previous image comparison.

Each screening centre should have systems in place to document whether or not outside images have been requested and if they have been received. This might include a log book or a “flag” system on the “waiting to be reported” film bags.

If outside images cannot be obtained after 3 attempts over 12 working days, the current exam should be reported.

## 3. RELATED POLICIES

## 4. RESPONSIBLE PARTY

Breast Screening Medical Director