



Story Behind the Curve

This measure looks at whether female Medicaid beneficiaries are being screened for breast cancer. It assesses the percentage of women between 50 and 74 years of age who had a mammogram to screen for breast cancer.

Breast cancer is the 2nd most common type of cancer among American women. It is most common in women over 50. Women whose breast cancer is detected early have more treatment choices and better chances for survival. Mammography screening has been shown to reduce mortality by 20-30% among women 40 and older. A mammogram can reveal tumors too small to be felt by hand; it can also show other changes in the breast that may suggest cancer.

Some women fear mammograms; others do not understand why they are important; still others simply need a reminder when they are due for a mammogram. Vermont Medicaid is leading a performance improvement project with partners listed below to improve our breast cancer screening rates. You can read more about the strategies we're trying to reach women and their providers in the Strategies section below.

Through data analysis performed in the Breast Cancer Screening Performance Improvement Project (PIP), we changed the way we run this measure starting in 2014.

It was discovered that beneficiaries with third party liability insurance (TPL) and beneficiaries who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid (duals) have been included in the denominator of all performance measures. DVHA is unable to see mammogram claims for these two populations, so they would never show up in the numerator as a "hit". Therefore, DVHA decided to exclude TPLs & duals from the overall BCS measure.

The 2015 breast cancer screening rate is 56.11%, a drop of 10.27 percentage points from the previous year. Data staff has reviewed the numerator and denominator and has confirmed that duals & TPLs have been removed. However, due to the drop in the rate and the fact that the denominator jumped by over 1400 beneficiaries, DVHA data staff is performing further analysis in July 2015.

Action Plan

Breast Cancer Screening (BCS) Performance Improvement Project (PIP)

Actions

Name	Assigned To	Status	Due Date	Progress

File Attachments

File Name