



**'Ohana Health Plan**  
The WellCare Group of Companies

November 23, 2009

Dear Clinician:

As many of you know, the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recently released updated guidelines for mammography. The recommended changes in the frequency and ages for breast cancer screening with mammography include first mammograms at age 50 and then every two years thereafter until age 75.

This varies from 'Ohana's current guidelines which can be found at <http://www.ohanahealthplan.com>. We have carefully reviewed the new recommendations, as well as responses from the American College of Radiology (<http://www.acr.org/>) and the American Cancer Society ([http://www.cancer.org/docroot/MED/content/MED\\_2\\_1x\\_American\\_Cancer\\_Society\\_Responds\\_to\\_Changes\\_to\\_USPSTF\\_Mammography\\_Guidelines.asp](http://www.cancer.org/docroot/MED/content/MED_2_1x_American_Cancer_Society_Responds_to_Changes_to_USPSTF_Mammography_Guidelines.asp)). Based on these reviews, **we do not plan to change our current guidelines for breast cancer screening.** We prefer that the decision as whether to start screening at age 40 or later remain with the member's physician.

Our Clinical Policy staff continuously scans the medical literature and other sources for updates in clinical evidence based on solid research, and our clinical practice guidelines are changed through a deliberate and considered process which involves clinicians from relevant specialties, as well as providers throughout our network of practitioners. We strive to maintain the highest quality guidelines based on evidence from high value research, and we will continue to follow this approach in this instance and in the future.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Medical Director or your Provider Relations specialist.

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