**Overview:** Since **Connecticut** passed the first patient notification mandate in 2009, breast density bills have been considered in over half of the states and Congress. Notification mandate laws have passed in 31 states. These laws are problematic because they legislate medical practice:

- no reliable (objective and quantitative) method for assessing breast density
- no clinical guidelines recommend additional screening solely on the basis of high breast density
- breast density is not a major cancer risk factor.

Proponents of these laws include two patient advocacy groups: Are You Dense Advocacy and the Density Education National Survivor’s Effort (D.E.N.S.E.). Are You Dense was founded by a Connecticut woman diagnosed with advanced-stage breast cancer in 2004. For more information about this grassroots advocacy campaign, visit Areyoudenseadvocacy.org.

**State Legislative Activity**

- As of 2017, 31 states have passed mandates (See chart on page 2)

These state laws:

- **Legislate new reporting to patients about breast density including that the patient may benefit from supplemental screening**
- **Encourage patients to discuss risks/benefits of adjunct screening with their primary health care provider**
- **Legislate insurance coverage for supplemental screening (ultrasound, MRI)**
- **Apply to facilities and/or the patient’s primary care or referring physician**
- **May change breast cancer screening practices**

**ACOG Clinical Guidance:** ACOG does not recommend routine use of alternative or adjunctive tests in women with dense breasts who are asymptomatic and have no additional risk factors. Screening mammography remains the most useful tool for breast cancer detection and has consistently demonstrated a reduction in breast cancer mortality. GYN Practice Committee Opinion 593 (2014) discusses prevalence; determination of density by radiologists which is a qualitative, visual assessment; impact of density on cancer risk; masking effect of dense breast tissue which reduces the sensitivity of a mammogram to detect malignancy; and efficacy of digital versus film mammography.

**ACOG Patient Education:** The ACOG cancer brochure, *Protect & Detect: What Women Should Know About Cancer*, does not address breast density or risk.

**American College of Radiology (ACR) Position:** ACR’s state chapters have taken varying positions on these bills. ACR acknowledges there is limited science to provide direction for patients, their primary care providers and breast imagers. ACR’s Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System (BI-RADS™) recommends that all mammography reports to referring providers include a description of breast density which physicians should use to discuss appropriate options given a patient’s history and other circumstances. Radiologists categorize density using a 4-level density scale.
ACR Patient Brochure: ACR issued a new patient brochure about breast density in late fall 2012. However, this has not dissuaded state lawmakers from legislating information that must be given to patients. In fact, recent laws (eg, NC) cite the ACR brochure. Visit Mammographysaveslives.org or RadiologyInfo.org.

FDA role: FDA mandates that information on breast parenchymal density be included in the mammography report but not the patient lay summary. In its October 2011 testimony to the FDA, ACR urged FDA to proceed cautiously and evaluate Connecticut’s experience as well as the benefits, possible harms and unintended consequences of mandating the reporting of mammographic breast density in patient lay summaries. To view ACR’s statement and talking points on breast density mandates, visit www.acr.org/advocacy.

**State Mandates: Breast Cancer Screening & Density**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Laws</th>
<th>Patient Notification</th>
<th>Mandates</th>
<th>No Conflict w/ MQSA*</th>
<th>Insurance Coverage for Supplemental Screening</th>
<th>Legal Liability Notice does not create a standard of care for screenings or cause of action</th>
<th>Data Collection on Costs and Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama (2013)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>F, P</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona (2014)</td>
<td>X (heterogeneously or extremely dense breasts)</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>California (2012)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado (2017)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>F, P</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware (2015)</td>
<td>X (all patients)</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STATE LAWS</strong></td>
<td><strong>PATIENT NOTIFICATION MANDATES</strong></td>
<td><strong>NOTICE OF BREAST DENSITY</strong></td>
<td><strong>NOTICE OF ADDITIONAL SCREENING OPTIONS</strong></td>
<td><strong>MANDATE ON FACILITY (F) OR PHYSICIAN (P)</strong></td>
<td><strong>LAW EXPIRES / UPDATED BASED ON EVIDENCE</strong></td>
<td><strong>NO CONFLICT w/ MQSA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>HAWAII (2013)</td>
<td>X X F</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X Updates to Notice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>INDIANA (2013)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>F</td>
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<tr>
<td>IOWA (2017)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>F</td>
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<tr>
<td>KENTUCKY (2017)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>LOUISIANA (2015)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>F</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARYLAND (2013, 2017)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>F</td>
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<tr>
<td>MASSACHUSETTS (2014)</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>MICHIGAN (2014 &amp; 2015)</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINNESOTA (2014)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* MQSA = Mammography Quality Standards Act

**Updates to Notice**
- **Hawaii (2013)**: Updates to Notice
- **Indiana (2013)**: Updates to Notice
- **Iowa (2017)**: Updates to definition of dense breast tissue
- **Kentucky (2017)**: Updates to definition of dense breast tissue/Expires January 1, 2021
- **Louisiana (2015)**: Updates to Notice
- **Maryland (2013, 2017)**: Updates to Notice
- **Massachusetts (2014)**: Updates to Notice
- **Michigan (2014 & 2015)**: Updates to definition of dense breast tissue
- **Minnesota (2014)**: Updates to definition of dense breast tissue

**Notice does not create a standard of care for screenings or cause of action**

**Legal Liability**
- **Hawaii (2013)**: Updates to Notice
- **Indiana (2013)**: Updates to Notice
- **Iowa (2017)**: Updates to definition of dense breast tissue
- **Kentucky (2017)**: Updates to definition of dense breast tissue/Expires January 1, 2021
- **Louisiana (2015)**: Updates to Notice
- **Maryland (2013, 2017)**: Updates to Notice
- **Massachusetts (2014)**: Updates to Notice
- **Michigan (2014 & 2015)**: Updates to definition of dense breast tissue
- **Minnesota (2014)**: Updates to definition of dense breast tissue

**State notice requirement is in force only until the federal act is amended to address breast density screening/risk**

**Insurance Coverage for Supplemental Screening**
- **Hawaii (2013)**: Updates to Notice
- **Indiana (2013)**: Updates to Notice
- **Iowa (2017)**: Updates to definition of dense breast tissue
- **Kentucky (2017)**: Updates to definition of dense breast tissue/Expires January 1, 2021
- **Louisiana (2015)**: Updates to Notice
- **Maryland (2013, 2017)**: Updates to Notice
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- **Minnesota (2014)**: Updates to definition of dense breast tissue

**Data Collection on Costs and Outcomes**
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- **Kentucky (2017)**: Updates to definition of dense breast tissue/Expires January 1, 2021
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- **Minnesota (2014)**: State notice requirement is in force only until the federal act is amended to address breast density screening/risk

**State Laws**
- **Hawaii (2013)**
- **Indiana (2013)**
- **Iowa (2017)**
- **Kentucky (2017)**
- **Louisiana (2015)**
- **Maryland (2013, 2017)**
- **Massachusetts (2014)**
- **Michigan (2014 & 2015)**
- **Minnesota (2014)**

**Notice of Additional Screening Options**
- **Hawaii (2013)**
- **Indiana (2013)**
- **Iowa (2017)**
- **Kentucky (2017)**
- **Louisiana (2015)**
- **Maryland (2013, 2017)**
- **Massachusetts (2014)**
- **Michigan (2014 & 2015)**
- **Minnesota (2014)**

**State Notice Requirement**
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- **Indiana (2013)**
- **Iowa (2017)**
- **Kentucky (2017)**
- **Louisiana (2015)**
- **Maryland (2013, 2017)**
- **Massachusetts (2014)**
- **Michigan (2014 & 2015)**
- **Minnesota (2014)**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE LAWS</th>
<th>PATIENT NOTIFICATION MANDATES</th>
<th>LAW EXPIRES / UPDATED BASED ON EVIDENCE</th>
<th>NO CONFLICT w/ MQSA*</th>
<th>LEGAL LIABILITY</th>
<th>DATA COLLECTION ON COSTS AND OUTCOMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MISSISSIPPI* (2017)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MISSOURI (2014)</td>
<td>X all patients</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NEBRASKA (2017)</td>
<td>X all patients &amp; heterogeneously or extremely dense breasts</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>X Updates to the notice</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEVADA (2013 &amp; 2015)</td>
<td>X all patients</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEW JERSEY (2013)</td>
<td>X heterogeneously or extremely dense breasts</td>
<td>X Physician referrals subject to utilization review</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td>X, X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW YORK (2012)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH CAROLINA (2013)</td>
<td>X heterogeneously or extremely dense breasts</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH DAKOTA (2015)</td>
<td>X heterogeneously or extremely dense breasts</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>X Expires July 31, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>OHIO (2014 &amp; 2015)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>OKLAHOMA (2016)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* MQSA: Mammography Quality Standards Act
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>NOTICE OF BREAST DENSITY</strong></td>
<td><strong>MANDATE ON FACILITY (F) OR PHYSICIAN (P)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OREGON</strong></td>
<td>Applies only to patients w/ dense breast tissue unless noted</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Updates to definition of dense breast tissue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2013)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X breast ultrasound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PENNSYLVANIA</strong></td>
<td>all patients</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2013)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X heterogeneous or extremely dense breasts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RHODE ISLAND</strong></td>
<td>X breast ultrasound</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(2015)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X breast ultrasound &amp; MRI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TENNESSEE</strong></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2013)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TEXAS</strong></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2011)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UTAH</strong></td>
<td>X not mandatory</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* (2012)</td>
<td>X not mandatory</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VERMONT</strong></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(2016)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>virginia</strong></td>
<td>X 2013 amendment: limited to heterogeneously or extremely dense breasts</td>
<td>F, P</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>2013 amendment: Updates to Notice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2012 &amp; 2013)</td>
<td>X 2013 amendment: limited to heterogeneously or extremely dense breasts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>X 2013 amendment: limited to heterogeneously or extremely dense breasts</td>
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</table>
EXPLANATION

Mississippi: The Mississippi law does not specify breast density; implementing rules which are being drafted may address breast density.

UTAH: The Utah law does not mandate but encourages facilities to provide notice about breast density.

Required Notice to Patients about Breast Density

STATES: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah (optional), Vermont, Virginia

ALABAMA
“Your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is very common and is not abnormal. However, dense breast tissue may make it harder to find cancer on a mammogram and may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This information about the result of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness. Use this information to talk to your doctor about your own risks for breast cancer. At that time, ask your doctor if more screening tests might be useful, based on your risk. A report of your results was sent to your physician.”

ARIZONA
“Your mammogram indicates that you have dense breast tissue. Dense breast tissue is common and is found in fifty percent of women. However, dense breast tissue can make it more difficult to detect cancers in the breast by mammography and may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This information is being provided to raise your awareness and to encourage you to discuss with your health care providers your dense breast tissue and other breast cancer risk factors. Together, you and your physician can decide if additional screening options are right for you. A report of your results was sent to your physician.”

CALIFORNIA
“Your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is common and is not abnormal. However, dense breast tissue can make it harder to evaluate the results of your mammogram and may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This information about the results of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness and to inform your conversations with your doctor. Together, you can decide which screening options are right for you. A report of your results was sent to your physician.”

COLORADO
“Your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is common and is not abnormal. However, dense breast tissue can make it harder to evaluate the results of your mammogram and may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This information about the results of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness and to inform your conversations with your doctor.”
Together, you can decide which screening options are right for you. A report of your results was sent to your physician.”

**CONNECTICUT**

“If your mammogram demonstrates that you have dense breast tissue, which could hide small abnormalities, you might benefit from supplementary screening tests, which can include a breast ultrasound screening or a breast MRI examination, or both, depending on your individual risk factors. A report of your mammography results, which contains information about your breast density, has been sent to your physician’s office and you should contact your physician if you have any questions or concerns about this report.”

**DELAWARE**

“The State of Delaware requires the notification of breast density to patients who receive a mammogram. Your breast density has been interpreted by a radiologist as: almost entirely fatty; scattered fibroglandular densities; heterogeneously dense; extremely dense. Breast density is based on the Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System established by the American College of Radiology. If your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense, you should know that dense breast tissue is a common finding and is not abnormal. Statistics show many women could have dense or highly dense breasts. Dense breast tissue can make it harder to find cancer on a mammogram and may be associated with an increased risk of cancer. This information about the result of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness and to inform your conversations with your physician. Together, you can decide which screening options are right for you, based on your mammogram results, individual risk factors or physical examination. A report of your results was sent to your physician.”

**HAWAII**

“Your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is very common and is not abnormal. However, dense breast tissue can make it harder to find cancer on a mammogram and may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This information about the result of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness. Use this information to talk to your physician as to whether, based on your risk, more screening tests might be useful. A report of your results was sent to your physician.”

**INDIANA**

Indiana’s law does not specify notification language.

**IOWA**

The law specifies that the notice must include the following: For all patients: the patient’s breast density category. For patients categorized as having heterogeneously dense or extremely dense breasts: evidence-based information on dense breast tissue, the increased risk associated with dense breast tissue, and the effects of dense breast tissue on screening mammography.

**KENTUCKY**

“Your x-ray mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is common among women and is not abnormal. However, women with dense breast tissue may have a slightly increased risk for developing breast cancer. Dense breast tissue may also make it more difficult to detect an early breast cancer on your x-ray mammogram. At this time, there are no specific recommendations for additional screening or other measures related to having dense breast tissue. However, you may want to talk to your doctor about other ways that you might be able to reduce your risk of breast cancer. A report of your results was sent to your ordering physician. If you are self-referred, a report of your results was sent to you in addition to this summary.”

**LOUISIANA**

“If your mammogram demonstrates that you have dense breast tissue, which could hide abnormalities, and you have other risk factors for breast cancer that have been identified, you might benefit from supplemental screening tests that may be suggested by your ordering physician. Dense breast tissue, in and of itself, is a relatively common condition. Therefore, this information is not provided to cause undue concern, but rather
to raise your awareness and to promote discussion with your physician regarding the presence of other risk factors, in addition to dense breast tissue. A summary of your mammography results will be sent to you, and a full mammography report will be sent to your physician and also to you. You should contact your physician if you have any questions or concerns regarding your summary or report of results.

**MARYLAND**  
Maryland altered its notice requirements in 2017 to require notice of additional screening options. “This notice contains the results of your recent mammogram, including information about breast density. If your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense, you should know that dense breast tissue is a common finding and is not abnormal, with about half of women having dense or highly dense breasts. However, dense breast tissue can make it harder to find cancer on a mammogram and may also be associated with an increased risk of cancer. This information about the result of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness and to inform your conversations with your physician. Together, you can decide whether additional screening options are right for you based on your mammogram results, individual risk factors, or physical examination. A report of your results was sent to your physician.”

**MASSACHUSETTS**  
The law specifies that the notice must include, at a minimum, the following: “that the patient’s mammogram shows dense breast tissue; that the degree of density apparent and an explanation of that degree of density; that dense breast tissue is common and not abnormal but that dense breast tissue may increase the risk of breast cancer; that dense breast tissue can make it more difficult to find cancer on a mammogram and that additional testing may be needed for reliable breast cancer screening; that additional screening may be advisable and that the patient should discuss the results of the mammogram with the patient’s referring physician or primary care physician; that the patient has the right to discuss the results of the patient’s mammogram with the interpreting radiologist or the referring physician; that a report of the patient’s mammogram has been sent to the referring physician and will become part of the patient’s medical record; and where the patient can find additional information about dense breast tissue.”

**MICHIGAN**  
“Your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is very common and is not abnormal. However, dense breast tissue can make it harder to find cancer through a mammogram. Also, dense breast tissue may increase your risk for breast cancer. This information about the result of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness. Use this information to discuss with your health care provider whether other supplemental tests in addition to your mammogram may be appropriate for you, based on your individual risk. A report of your results was sent to your ordering physician. If you are self-referred, a report of your results was sent to you in addition to this summary.”

**MINNESOTA**  
The following language is suggested, not mandated: “Your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is relatively common and is found in more than 40 percent of women. However, dense breast tissue may make it more difficult to identify precancerous lesions or cancer through a mammogram and may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This information about the results of your mammogram is given to you to raise your own awareness and to help inform your conversations with your treating clinician who has received a report of your mammogram results. Together you can decide which screening options are right for you based on your mammogram results, individual risk factors, or physical examination.”

**MISSOURI**  
“If your mammogram demonstrates that you have dense breast tissue, which could hide abnormalities, and you have other risk factors for breast cancer that have been identified, you might benefit from supplemental screening tests that may be suggested by your ordering physician. Dense breast tissue, in and of itself, is a relatively common condition. Therefore, this information is not provided to cause undue concern, but rather
to raise your awareness and to promote discussion with your physician regarding the presence of other risk factors, in addition to dense breast tissue. A report of your mammography results will be sent to you and your physician. You should contact your physician if you have any questions or concerns regarding this report.”

**NEBRASKA**

“Your mammogram indicates that you have dense breast tissue. Dense breast tissue is a normal finding that is present in about forty percent of women. Dense breast tissue can make it more difficult to detect cancer on a mammogram and may be associated with a slightly increased risk for breast cancer. This information is provided to raise your awareness of the impact of breast density on cancer detection and to encourage you to discuss this issue, as well as other breast cancer risk factors, with your health care provider as you decide together which screening options may be right for you.”

**NEVADA**

Two years after passing a mandate, Nevada amended its notice requirement. “Your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is common and is not abnormal. However, dense breast tissue can make it harder to evaluate the results of your mammogram and may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This information about the results of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness and to inform your conversations with your physician. Together, you can decide which screening options are right for you. A report of your results was sent to your physician.”

**NEW JERSEY**

“Your mammogram may show that you have dense breast tissue as determined by the Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System established by the American College of Radiology. Dense breast tissue is very common and is not abnormal. However, in some cases, dense breast tissue can make it harder to find cancer on a mammogram and may also be associated with a risk factor for breast cancer. Discuss this and other risks for breast cancer that pertain to your personal medical history with your health care provider. A report of your results was sent to your health care provider. You may also find more information about breast density at the website of the American College of radiology, www.acr.org.”

**NEW YORK**

“Your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is very common and is not abnormal. However, dense breast tissue can make it harder to find cancer on a mammogram and may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. Use this information to talk to your doctor about your own risks for breast cancer. At that time, ask your doctor if more screening tests might be useful, based on your risk. A report of your results was sent to your physician.”

**NORTH CAROLINA**

“Your mammogram indicates that you may have dense breast tissue. Dense breast tissue is relatively common and is found in more than 40 percent (40%) of women. The presence of dense tissue may make it more difficult to detect abnormalities in the breast and may be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. We are providing this information to raise your awareness of this important factor and to encourage you to talk with your physician about this and other breast cancer risk factors. Together, you can decide which screening options are right for you. A report of your results was sent to your physician.”

**NORTH DAKOTA**

North Dakota’s law does not specify notification language, but mandates the notice include: “that the patient has dense breast tissue, that this dense breast tissue may make it more difficult to detect cancer on a mammogram, and that this dense breast tissue may increase the patient’s risk of breast cancer.”

**OHIO**

“Your mammogram demonstrates that you have dense breast tissue, which could hide abnormalities. Dense breast tissue, in and of itself, is a relatively common condition. Therefore, this information is not provided to
cause undue concern; rather, it is to raise your awareness and promote discussion with your health care provider regarding the presence of dense breast tissue in addition to other risk factors.”

**OKLAHOMA**

“Your mammogram indicates that you have dense breast tissue. Dense breast tissue is common and is found in more than fifty percent (50%) of women and is not abnormal. However, dense breast tissue may make it more difficult to detect breast cancer and may be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This information is being provided to raise your awareness and to encourage you and your health care provider to discuss this and other breast cancer risk factors. Together, you and your health care provider can decide if additional screening options may be right for you. A report of your results was sent to your health care provider.”

**OREGON**

The Health Authority will prescribe the notice in forthcoming regulations. The law specifies that the notice include the following: “information about breast density based on the Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System established by the American College of Radiology; an explanation that dense breast tissue can make it harder to find cancer on a mammogram and that dense breast tissue may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer; that the patient may benefit from supplementary screening or diagnostic testing including a breast ultrasound; and that the patient should contact the patient’s health care provider to find out whether the health care provider recommends additional testing.”

**PENNSYLVANIA**

“This notice contains the results of your recent mammogram, including information about breast density. If your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense, you should know that dense breast tissue is a common finding and is not abnormal. Statistics show that many women could have dense or highly dense breasts. Dense breast tissue can make it harder to find cancer on a mammogram and may be associated with an increased risk of cancer. This information about the result of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness and to inform your conversations with your physician. Together, you can decide which screening options are right for you based on your mammogram results, individual risk factors or physical examination. A report of your results was sent to your physician.”

**RHODE ISLAND**

“Your mammogram indicates that you have dense breast tissue. Dense breast tissue is relatively common and is found in about forty percent (40%) of women. The presence of dense tissue can make it more difficult to detect cancers in the breast by mammography because it can hide small abnormalities and may be associated with an increased risk. Hence, you may benefit from supplementary screening tests, which may include a breast ultrasound screening, or a breast MRI examination, or both, depending on your individual risk factors. We are providing this information to raise your awareness of this important factor and to encourage you to discuss your dense breast tissue, as well as other breast cancer risk factors, with your health care provider. Together, you can decide which screening options are right for you. A report of your results was sent to your physician. You should contact your physician if you have any questions or concerns about this report.”

**TENNESSEE**

“Your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is common and is not abnormal. However, dense breast tissue can make it harder to evaluate the results of your mammogram and may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This information about the results of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness and to inform your conversations with your doctor. Together, you can decide which screening options are right for you. A report of your results was sent to your physician.”
Texas  “If your mammogram demonstrates that you have dense breast tissue, which could hide abnormalities, and you have other risk factors for breast cancer that have been identified, you might benefit from supplemental screening tests that may be suggested by your ordering physician. Dense breast tissue, in and of itself, is a relatively common condition. Therefore, this information is not provided to cause undue concern, but rather to raise your awareness and to promote discussion with your physician regarding the presence of other risk factors, in addition to dense breast tissue. A report of your mammography results will be sent to you and your physician. You should contact your physician if you have any questions or concerns regarding this report.”

Utah  Under Utah’s law, mammography facilities are encouraged but not required to provide this notice:

“Mammography is the only breast cancer screening examination which has been shown in multiple randomized clinical trials to reduce death rate from breast cancer. However, it is not a perfect test, specifically in women with dense breast tissue. Because your mammogram demonstrates that you have dense breast tissue, you may benefit from supplementary screening tests, depending on your personal risk factors and family history. Although other screening tests may find additional cancers, they may not necessarily increase survival. Nevertheless, you should discuss your mammography results with your health care provider. A copy of your mammography report has been sent to your health care provider’s office. Please contact your health care provider if you have any questions or concerns about this notice.”

Vermont  “Your mammogram indicates that you have dense breast tissue. Dense breast tissue is a normal finding that is present in about 40 percent of women. Dense breast tissue can make it more difficult to detect cancer on a mammogram and may be associated with a slightly increased risk for breast cancer. This information is provided to raise your awareness of the impact of breast density on cancer detection and to encourage you to discuss this issue, as well as other breast cancer risk factors, with your health care provider as you decide together which screening options may be right for you.”

Virginia  One year after passing a mandate, Virginia amended its notice requirement:  “Your mammogram demonstrates that you may have dense breast tissue. Dense breast tissue is very common and is not abnormal. However, dense breast tissue can make it harder to find cancer on a mammogram and may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This information is given to you to raise your awareness. Use this information to talk to your doctor about your own risks for breast cancer. At that time, ask your doctor if more screening tests might be useful based on your risk. A report of your mammography results has been sent to your referring physician’s office, and you should contact your physician if you have any questions or concerns about this report.”