

## Inflammation caused by COVID-19 vaccine can lead to inaccurate mammogram results

Before scheduling patients' mammograms, ask if they've received a COVID-19 vaccine in the last four to six weeks. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)\* suggests that patients who receive the COVID-19 vaccine wait four to six weeks before completing mammograms.

Most vaccines, including influenza, pneumococcus, and COVID-19, cause temporary swelling of lymph nodes in the underarm area (axilla) near where patients received their shot. Mammograms performed on patients within four to six weeks of receiving the vaccine may have a false positive result. These false positive results may lead to repeat studies and member anxiety.

Waiting will reduce unnecessary call-backs for more diagnostic procedures and radiation exposure.

If patients ask questions about the vaccination, reassure them that:

- The COVID-19 vaccine is not associated with breast cancer.
- The lymph node inflammation is normal and means the immune system is working.

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