WhidbeyHealth Diagnostic Imaging Offers 2D and 3D Mammography

- A mammogram is specialized imaging that uses low dose X-ray to examine the breast and aids in the early detection and diagnosis of breast disease. 2D screening mammograms are a fully covered benefit on an annual basis through most insurance carriers.

- What is 3D Mammography? It’s a revolutionary screening tool designed for early breast cancer detection. 3D mammography is an optional exam that is performed along with the conventional 2D mammogram. During the 3D part of the exam, the X-ray arm sweeps in a slight arc over the breast, taking multiple images providing greater detail for the radiologist. Studies suggest that with 3D:
  - 42% more of invasive cancers are detected
  - 29% more of all breast cancers are detected
  - 15% decrease in patient call backs for additional imaging

- Is there an additional cost for 3D mammography? It depends on your health insurance. We encourage you to contact them to determine if it’s a covered benefit. 3D is approved by the FDA and is covered by a number of insurance carriers. Some do not include 3D mammography as a covered benefit and may require you to pay for the 3D component of the exam or may consider payment for this part of the mammogram your responsibility, unless your deductible has been met. We will bill your insurance for the entire exam. If the 3D portion is not a covered benefit, you will be billed for the difference and offered a discounted rate of $100. That payment is $80 if you choose “prompt pay,” which means paying in full at the time of service. *(Please note: You may receive an additional bill from Radia for 3D Mammography. Contact them at 888.927.8023 for more info.)*

- Why should a woman begin annual screening mammography at age 40?
  - 25% of women who die from breast cancer are diagnosed in their 40s
  - 1 in 8 women living in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer
  - 3 out of 4 of those diagnosed with breast cancer have no known risk factors

- I heard the breast cancer screening guidelines changed. WhidbeyHealth Medical Center continues to stand firmly behind its recommendations of annual mammograms starting at age 40. In accordance with the guidelines of the American Medical Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American College of Radiology (ACR), BreastCancer.org, the National Cancer Institute, Society of Breast Imaging (SBI) and the National Comprehensive Cancer Network, we believe that early detection saves lives.