Breast Exams

What is it?

- <u>Mammogram</u>- a breast X-Ray that can detect breast tumors too small to be detected by clinical breast exam or breast self-exam, mammogram saves lives
- Clinical Breast Exam- feel for lumps, unusual changes
 - o Recommended- yearly after 40, or if problems with breasts
 - I Yearly- normal, changes in your breasts, finding lumps, cysts
 - Mirror Exam- nude from waist up look at your breasts with hands down by your side, above your head, on your hips and bending forward- if you have a > 10 year old girl let her help you and then she can also learn the procedure
 - Lying Down on the Bed- place a pillow under the shoulder you are examining; using the upper 1/3 of your fingers, move your fingers in penny sized circles over your breast and nipple, push down gently checking for lumps, changes, thickening; then examine the other breast; this can also be done in the shower
 - Check- armpits, breastbone, any area around the breast; examine both breasts



Signs and Symptoms:

 <u>Changes-</u> size, shape, indentations, puckering, flattening, contour, nipple skin, milky discharge from the nipple, inverted nipple, swollen bumps, festered sores, orange color, leathery skin or dimpled skin, scaly skin, swelling that does not go away

Facts:

- Normal- 1 breast larger than the other, some tissue may be thicker
- **<u>80%</u>** women discover the lump
- Breast Cancer 10% have pain without a lump

What can I do?

- See your Health Care Provider
- See a Registered Dietitian- for help as needed or line for help
- **<u>Repeat Monthly</u>** at the same time to check your breasts, a few days after your period or anytime if do not menstruate

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