



## Oncology Nursing Society

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### *News Release*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Oncology Nursing Society Responds to Update on Breast Cancer Screening**

PITTSBURGH, PA – November 18, 2009 – Evidence regarding the benefits of mammography screening and breast self-examination has been conflicting, and recently announced guidelines from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force further add to the dialogue about this important issue. The task force's update recommends against routine screening mammography in women aged 40–49 and teaching breast self-examinations. This is a change from the previous recommendation developed in 2002 that recommended routine screening mammography in women aged 40–49 every one to two years and stated that insufficient evidence existed at that time to recommend or not recommend breast self-examination instruction.

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) strongly supports the use of evidence-based research in clinical decision making. The ONS Position on Breast Cancer Screening was developed in 2006 and reflected the most up-to-date research at that time. In light of the new evidence, the ONS Board of Directors will review its position and consider the possibility of a revision of its statement. In the meantime, ONS stands by its position that "the benefits, risks, and potential

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limitations of breast self-exam, clinical breast exam, and mammography need to be discussed with each woman and tailored to her risk factor assessment."

ONS is a professional organization of more than 37,000 registered nurses and other healthcare professionals committed to excellence in oncology nursing and to leading the transformation of cancer care by initiating and actively supporting educational, legislative, and public awareness efforts to improve the care of people with cancer. ONS provides nurses and healthcare professionals with access to the highest quality educational programs, cancer care resources, research opportunities, and networks for peer support. Learn more at [www.ons.org](http://www.ons.org).

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