



Oncology Nursing Society

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June 6, 2023

USPSTF Coordinator
c/o USPSTF
5600 Fishers Lane
Mail Stop 06E53A
Rockville, MD 20857

Submitted electronically through the USPSTF website

Re: Draft Recommendation Statement, Evidence Review and Modeling Report on Breast Cancer Screening

The Oncology Nursing Society strongly supports the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) draft recommendation that women ages 40 to 74 years receive biennial screening mammography for breast cancer, lowering the age from 50 years and expanding access to more women. As the Task Force highlights, screening earlier could result in 19% more lives being saved.

While a step in the right direction, we continue to believe annual – rather than biennial – screening is more appropriate and encourage the USPSTF to make this modification in the final recommendation. Evidence shows that annual screenings are linked to lower stage disease at diagnosis and fewer interval cancers,¹ and is particularly true in patients with dense breast tissue.²

In addition, we have concerns about the USPSTF recommendation and “I” rating (insufficient evidence) for supplemental breast cancer screening with ultrasound or breast MRI for those with dense breasts. It is widely recognized that mammography is less sensitive in women with dense breast tissue, so much so that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently issued regulations that will require dense breast reporting to patients and their referring provider by mammography facilities.³

We appreciate your consideration of the voice of oncology nurses as you finalize this recommendation, the evidence review and modeling report. If you have any questions or would to discuss our feedback in more detail, please contact Alec Stone, ONS Public Affairs Director, at astone@ons.org.

Sincerely,

The Oncology Nursing Society

About ONS

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) is a professional organization of over 39,000 registered nurses and other healthcare providers dedicated to excellence in patient care, education, research, and administration in oncology nursing. ONS members are a diverse group of professionals who represent a variety of professional roles, practice settings, and subspecialty practice areas. Oncology nurses are leaders in the healthcare arena, committed to continuous learning and leading the transformation of cancer care by advocating for high-quality care for people with cancer.

¹ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33955776/>

² <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34279132/>

³ <https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2023-04550.pdf>