Purdue University’s Center for Healthy Living
Mammography Screening Event FAQs

In 2014 Purdue’s mammography screening rate was 47.5 percent (down 8.4 percent from 2013). In an effort to increase screening rates, along with awareness, we are offering a program through the Center for Healthy Living to reduce any barriers to obtaining a preventive mammography screening. Purdue University’s Center for Healthy Living, in conjunction with Indiana University Health Arnett, is providing convenient access for employees to get their preventive (not diagnostic) mammogram screening in paid status with supervisor approval.

Q. Who is eligible for the screening event?

All benefits-eligible employees at the West Lafayette campus are eligible to register with priority given to those who have not had a screening within the past two years or more.

Q. When can I register for a screening appointment?

A. Registration will open on July 15, 2015 and will be open through August 28, 2015.

Q. How far out will my appointment be scheduled?

A. Appointments are available:

- Friday, October 2: 6 – 8 a.m.; 10 a.m. – noon; and 4 – 6 p.m.
- Saturday, October 3: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Monday, October 5: 6 – 8 a.m.; 10 a.m. – noon; and 4 – 6 p.m.

Q. Will I receive a reminder about the appointment?

A. Yes, IU Health Arnett will contact you by phone prior to the appointment as a reminder.

Q. What if I can no longer participate?

A. If you make an appointment, but find that you’re unable to keep it, please notify both the person who approved your release time and the Center for Healthy Living.

Q. Will I get paid time off to participate in the screening?

A. Yes, with your supervisor’s approval, up to 90 minutes of paid time off will be allotted for travel and screening, including travel to the Center for Healthy Living for transport to IU Health Arnett Medical Offices in West Lafayette, complete screening and return to Purdue. If you choose to drive yourself to the appointment, that time is also included. You do not need to make up the paid release time.

Q. How much will the screening cost?

A. The screening event is for employees who need to have their preventive screening completed, therefore the mammography screening will be provided at no charge to you.
Q. Will I need my insurance card?

A. Yes, you will need to have your insurance card with you on the day of your appointment to complete all appropriate forms for the screening.

Q. What if my normally scheduled hours are outside of the event times?

A. You may be able to schedule an appointment just before or just after your shift. If you are unable to have your screening during your regularly scheduled work time, you will be participating on your own time, rather than on paid release time. You will still receive the eligible services at no charge.

Q. How do I request the paid release time from my supervisor?

A. Employees should talk with his or her unit head or designated supervisor in order to request the paid release time to be able to participate in the screening event. The employee is responsible to ensure business needs will be met during the absence and impact on the department is kept to a minimum. Things to ask your supervisor are: When is a good time to be away? Are there appointment times to avoid? Please be flexible and collaborative in working with your supervisor. Paid release time for this event is a privilege and is not a guaranteed benefit.

Q. Do I have to provide proof of attending the mammography screening?

A. When talking with their supervisor, employees should ask whether they need to provide proof of attendance. If the supervisor requires proof, the employee should obtain a Wellness Program Attendance Form which can be requested from the Center for Healthy Living on the day of their appointment. HIPAA laws cover the screening, so the form will only confirm attendance and will not include any personal health details.

Q. What is included in a mammography screening?

A. A mammogram is a simple test. When you go for a mammogram, the technician taking the picture will place your breast between two X-ray panels. The panels will push your breast between them to get a clear picture. You may feel a little bit of discomfort, but each X-ray takes less than one minute.

Q. Who should get a mammogram?

A. The United States Preventive Services Task Force recommends if you are 50 to 74 years old, be sure to have a screening mammogram every two years. If you are 40 to 49 years old, talk to your doctor about when to start and how often to get a screening mammogram.

Q. When will I get the results of my mammogram?

A. Upon completing registration papers at the IU Health Arnett Medical Offices, you will be asked to indicate a doctor that will receive your results. If a primary care physician is not identified, your results will be sent to Dr. Carolyn Cooper at the Center for Healthy Living.

Q. What happens if my mammogram is normal?

A. Continue to get regular mammograms based on the US Preventive Services Task Force recommendations above.
Q. What happens if my mammogram is abnormal?
A. If your mammogram is abnormal, do not panic. An abnormal mammogram does not always mean there is cancer. IU Health Arnett or your physician will discuss next steps with you. You may be required to complete additional tests or exams which can generate a fee. Additionally, you may be referred to a breast specialist or a surgeon.

Q. Can employees from the regional campuses take advantage of the screening event?
A. While all benefits-eligible employees may use the Center for Healthy Living, the screening program is only for West Lafayette employees.

Q. Can I go to my community doctor in paid status during the screening event?
A. No, mammography screenings completed outside of the event or with your community physician are not considered part of this event. If you currently have a selected provider and get regular screenings we encourage you to continue with your provider.

Q. I’ve read that I should record time as “Other leave-paid,” but the time sheet says only “Other leave.” Do I record it differently than “Other leave”?
A. No, please record the time as “Other leave.” You do not have to identify what the leave was for.

Q. My primary transportation during work is in a University vehicle. Can I still go to the center?
A. University vehicles are only for use on campus. If you have chosen to utilize transportation from the Center for Healthy Living, you may use your university vehicle to get to CHL. If you are not signed up for bus transportation, you will need to use your personal vehicle to get to your screening.

Q. What will be your measurement of success?
A. We will be evaluating whether this event has increased the number of employees who are getting their preventive screenings, which can lead to early detection of disease.