

# MAMMOGRAPHY

## **Purpose:**

Detects cysts, tumors, and other breast diseases.

## **How long will this procedure take?**

Plan on approximately 45-60 minutes for your mammogram. Your exam may not take this long, but this will allow time for additional views, if necessary.

## **Preparation:**

Wear no deodorant, powder, or perfume on breasts or underarms. Drink no caffeine (e.g., coffee, tea, chocolate, soda pop) two weeks prior to the examination. Caffeine will contribute to breast tenderness.

Try not to schedule your mammogram 7-10 days prior to your menstrual period, as during this time, your breasts may be more sensitive.

You will be asked to disrobe from the waist up and put on a hospital gown. It may be more convenient and comfortable if you wear a two piece outfit.

If you need to cancel or reschedule your appointment, please call the Warren Screening Center at 723-2677.

## **Procedure:**

For your comfort, only female technologists perform mammography at Warren General Hospital. You will be standing during the examination while the technologist positions your breast on a tray. Your breast will be firmly pressed (compressed) between the compression paddle and film holder. This serves to flatten and separate overlapping breast tissue and is essential in obtaining an accurate examination.

Each breast will be imaged from above and from the side. All your films will be reviewed by the radiologist before you leave the department to assure that no additional films are necessary. He may also need to examine your breasts to correlate what he sees on the films.

## **After the examination:**

The radiologist will study your films and dictate a report which will be sent to your physician within 24 hours.