

I am the Breast Cancer Team Nurse Navigator at UCHealth Barrett Cancer Center. I meet all of our newly diagnosed breast cancer patients at their initial visit and follow their care through Survivorship. I hear all their stories and address all their barriers and fears. We have seen an increasing number of women that present with larger breast masses d/t their initial mass was not detected on their screening mammogram. Women with high breast density can often times have masses disguised that are missed with screening. The masses are not found until they are larger and more palpable. Many of these masses would have been found on a screening Breast MRI if covered by insurance. The letter patients get from Radiology with their screening mammogram indicates if the patient has high breast density, increases their risk for hidden mass, but doesn't offer a solution. This is very frightening for women. I would know, as I have high breast density. I completely understand the letter and the meaning and it still gives me pause every year when I read the letter. Better screening always decreases fear and anxiety. Screening is more cost effective than breast cancer treatment. Please pass this bill! Thank you!