

How to increase
**Breast Cancer
Screening Rates**
in practice

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Improve Cancer Screening Rates

USING THE FOUR ESSENTIALS

Be clear that screening is important. Ask patients about their needs and preferences.

Involve your staff to make screening more effective.

1

Make a Recommendation

The primary reason patients say they are not screened is because a doctor did not advise it. **A recommendation from you is vital.**

2

Develop a Screening Policy

Create a standardized course of action. **Engage your team in creating, supporting, and following the policy.**

COMMUNICATION

4

Measure Practice Progress

Establish a baseline screening rate, and set an ambitious practice goal. **Seeing screening rates improve can be rewarding for your team.**

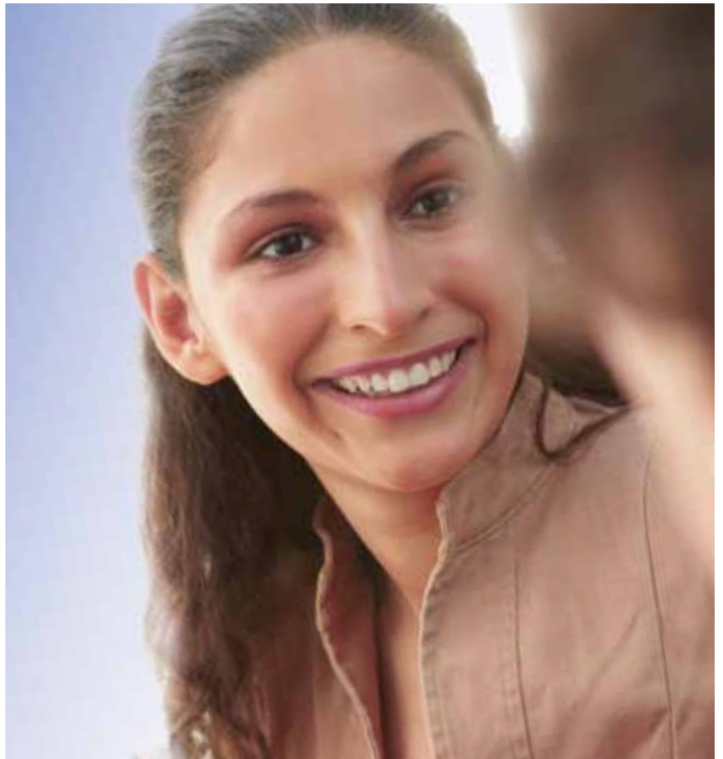
Be Persistent with Reminders

Track test results, and follow up with providers and patients. **You may need to remind patients several times before they follow through.**

3

Measure your progress to tell if you are doing as well as you think.

Create a simple tracking system that will help you follow up as needed.



Saving Lives

THROUGH CANCER SCREENINGS

Implement practice changes to achieve the Four Essentials, and increase cancer screening rates.

Increasing screening saves lives. A plan for your practice that is evidence-based is included below.

1. Take steps to identify and screen every age-appropriate patient.

Start with patients who are easiest to reach, and incrementally incorporate less accessible groups:

- Patients who appear for regular check-ups;
- Patients who receive regular care for chronic conditions;
- Patients who come in only when they have a problem;
- Patients who are part of your practice, but almost never come in.

2. Involve your staff, and put office systems in place. Given the many demands on your time, getting a recommendation to every appropriate patient will occur only when the screening process happens systematically.

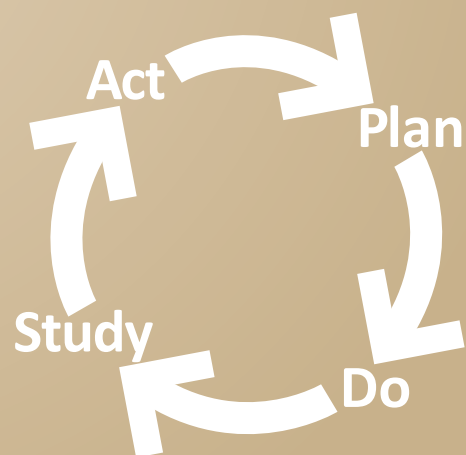
3. Follow a continuous improvement model to develop and test changes.

Develop Your Plan: In cooperation with your staff, develop a screening system based on the Four Essentials. If you already have a system, review your approach and identify opportunities for improvement. Establish a baseline screening rate before implementing changes.

Do Your Plan: Engage your staff in the plan, and make sure everyone on your team knows their role.

Study Your Results: Measure your screening rates, and meet with your staff regularly to review progress.

Act on Your Results: Based on your results, identify opportunities for further improvement. When you are ready, build on your plan and consider including harder-to-reach patient groups.



For more information,
visit [cancer.org](https://www.cancer.org)
or call 1-800-227-2345.



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