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## HealthPartners Clinics Same-Day Mammography Reduces Health Disparities

*HealthPartners Medical Group, Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

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The same day-mammography program at HealthPartners Medical Group is designed to address a specific disparity in care and goes beyond standard delivery of care. This intervention leverages consistent workflows and electronic medical record information to help caregivers identify needed services for all patients and then has customized the process to better address specific barriers or challenges to care.

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In 2006, HealthPartners clinics began collecting race and language data from patients on a voluntary basis and entering the information in its electronic health record. The clinic staff uses the data to analyze existing clinical quality and patient satisfaction measures by race and language preference in order to identify health disparities.

A 2007 analysis of clinical quality measures revealed disparities between racial groups on the percentage of women who had received recommended breast cancer screening (mammograms). In particular, the percentage of patients who had received recommended screening based on their age and personal risk factors varied significantly non-white populations, when compared to white patients.

Mammography screening typically takes place at a different time than the initial office visit and may require the patient to travel to a different facility than her primary clinic. These factors, as well as cultural, socio-economic and other barriers, may contribute to lower screening rates among some groups, which could contribute to health disparities.

To help address disparities in breast cancer screening, HealthPartners clinics began testing a same-day mammography program at three clinics with on site mammography in 2007. The program was targeted at women at high risk for breast cancer. During a routine office visit, doctors and nurses offer a “same-day” mammogram to women who, according to their EHR, are overdue for screening, based on preventive service guidelines and their personal risk factors.

In the first quarter of 2007, the three test clinics had an average screening rate disparity of 11% between non-white and white patients. By first quarter 2008, clinics those clinics decreased the disparity to 8.7%. In January 2008, HealthPartners clinics began offering same-day mammograms at seven additional locations. For the first quarter of 2009, the disparity rates across all HealthPartners decreased to 9%. Today, the program is available all HealthPartners clinics.

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