

The Provincial Breast Health Strategy

Working together to improve breast cancer prevention, screening & diagnosis in BC

Digital Mammography Team: Input from Summit Participants

Provincial Breast Health Strategy Objective (#2):

To increase capacity in the breast health system

- Develop a strategy to implement digital mammography equipment and related information technology in the Screening Mammography Program.
- Integrate the screening mammography replacement strategy with the diagnostic equipment replacement strategy in Health Authorities and Community (private) Imaging Clinics.

Themes from Summit Breakout Group Discussions:

Option #1 A hosted provincial screening solution

Strengths

- Screening radiologists can access all SMP images and reports, reading can be done anywhere in the province and implementation formula would be the same in each location
- This option could make efficient use of the current mobile units, which can cross all HAs

Weaknesses/Threats

- Creates a provincial screening island – no integration of diagnostic and treatment
- Patient care pathway is local/regional - option does not follow the patient's diagnostic journey
- Could present problems with shared use equipment and likely to be problem with integration of screening with the regional imaging access systems used for diagnostic work (RIS and PACs)
- Challenges with equipment set up and maintenance at the clinics where existing RIS and PACs are administered by local health authorities
- Patient records for screening and diagnosis divided over multiple, non-integrated systems
- Developing digital mammography solution for screening only will lead to fragmentation of care, with potential for conversion back to analog when screening images are used by diagnostic clinics

Option #2 An integrated screening solution

Strengths

- Local access to both screening and diagnostic images and reports
- Digital equipment can be shared for screening and diagnostic work
- Leverages the existing RIS and PACs investments and support systems of health authorities
- Reading can be organized across clinics with regional system access
- Images stay on the system where they were acquired “one source of truth”
- Allows for staged rollout

Weaknesses/threats

- Requires cross system integration (sending and receiving HL7 messaging)
- Need to address how community imaging clinics will be connected
- Less responsive to clients moving from one health authority to another
- Need to decide how to handle the mobiles across the health authorities
- Need to interface with local systems - some are old and some HAs have multiple systems

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- The robustness of local RIS/PACs systems and their availability to service community imaging clinics
- Provincial EMPI dependency (for consistency of patient identifiers)
- Current project mandate of developing digital mammography solution for screening could lead to mix of analog and digital machines in the system

Opportunities

- Integration with the regional diagnostic strategies:
 - the opportunity for providers to work more seamlessly within a region
 - opportunity to design a system that produces seamless, high-quality care where the funding follows the patient
 - rationalize equipment and health care professional placement
- leverages provincial diagnostic imaging solution to deal with cross-health authority image access
- enhances system performance monitoring by expanding interfaces to send all breast-related imaging and lab results from the regional system to the SMP system, eliminating current manual data process