

Breast Cancer Risk Assessment Program at Rush

Rush's breast imaging team uses Cancer Risk Assessment (CRA) software to determine the most effective care pathway for women who are at high risk for breast cancer. Patients complete a questionnaire to obtain personal risk factors and family history of cancer. CRA calculates the patient's lifetime risk for breast cancer via the Tyrer-Cuzick 8 model, Gail 5 year score, and the National Comprehensive Cancer Network's guidelines for genetic counseling. These risk models help providers find high-risk patients who are eligible for additional screening to allow for the early detection of biologically aggressive cancers when they are most treatable.

The CRA tool is seamlessly integrated with Epic to reduce uncertainty about screening guidelines. Providers who use Epic are able to learn more about each patient and their potential for developing breast cancer as soon as the questionnaire has been completed.

Rush is one of the only academic medical centers in Illinois to integrate a breast cancer risk assessment screening with direct referral to a high-risk protocol.

How Do I Refer a Patient to the High Risk Breast Clinic?

Rush Providers

Please enter "REQUEST FOR HIGH RISK BREAST CLINIC [REF001151]" in Epic to place the order. The CRA nurse navigator will discuss your patient's results from the CRA risk assessment and recommend a physician referral to the High Risk Breast Clinic, if needed.

External Providers

To refer a patient, please call Cathy Murphy, RN, CRA nurse navigator, at (312) 563-2660.



How Does the Cancer Risk Assessment Tool Work?

When patients arrive for their annual mammogram, they will answer a questionnaire about family history and other breast cancer risk factors. If the patient consents, the data is imported into the CRA software tool, which will use a set of risk models (Tyrer-Cuzick 8 model, Gail 5 year score and the National Comprehensive Cancer Network's guidelines) to generate scores for these models. Patients whose lifetime risk of breast cancer is 20 percent or greater will be flagged in the system as high risk. High-risk patients will be contacted by the CRA nurse navigator and will receive a letter with the results. The patient's physician will also receive a report.

Rush patients will be contacted by the CRA nurse navigator, who may recommend a breast MRI or genetic testing. If patients are outside of the Rush University System for Health network, their primary care providers will be notified first with recommendations for next steps.

All high-risk patients will be offered a referral to the Rush High Risk Breast Clinic.

For more information,
please call Cathy Murphy,
RN, CRA nurse navigator,
at (312) 563-2660.



U.S. News & World Report ranked
Rush University Medical Center's Cancer
Center among the best in the nation.

Locations

Regenstein Breast Imaging Center Rush University Medical Center

1725 W. Harrison St.
Chicago, IL 60612
(312) 942-2027

Rush Oak Park Hospital

520 S. Maple Ave.
Oak Park, IL 60304
(708) 660-6266

Rush Oak Brook

2011 York Road
Oak Brook, IL 60523
(312) 942-2027

Rush South Loop

1411 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 942-2027

High Risk Breast Clinic

If a patient's risk assessment indicates an increased risk for breast cancer due to family history or a genetic mutation, our clinicians in the High Risk Breast Clinic will provide a personalized screening plan. The patient will receive a clinical breast exam, education, and information about other services, such as lab tests, breast ultrasound, MRI, genetic testing or additional screenings. The clinicians in the clinic will work with each patient to provide guidance for a prevention strategy.

Our Imaging Capabilities

Breast Imaging Program

Breast imaging radiologists at Rush partner with patients to provide personalized, precision breast screening. Our team offers 2-D and 3-D mammography at sites across our system, and we are one of the few health systems in the Chicago area to offer 3-D wide angle mammography technology, which we believe is superior in detecting small breast cancers. Other advanced technologies offered include screening breast ultrasound using ABUS technology, FAST Breast MRI, with a scan time of less than 10 minutes, and contrast enhanced mammography (coming soon).

Breast Imaging Center of Excellence

Rush is designated as a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology. At Rush, mammograms are read only by physicians specializing in breast imaging, offering the highest level of expertise and the best outcomes for patients. The breast imaging team works closely with the breast cancer team at Rush, which includes medical oncologists, breast surgeons, advanced practice providers and other clinicians.

Our Team

Diagnostic Radiologists



Anne B. Cardwell, MD



Paula M. Grabler, MD



Gene R. Solmos, MD



Carol L. Corbridge, MD



Karen T. Hou, MD



Lisa R. Stempel, MD
Chief, Division of Breast Imaging



Janice J. Dieschbourg, MD



Anita O. Nagamine, MD



Brandie L. Fagin, MD



Mariana Solari, MD

CRA Nurse Navigator



Cathy Murphy, RN