

# Sample Lay Letter for Probably Benign Finding, but Initial 6-Month Follow-up Recommended (to be used with BI-RADS® 3)

Name of Facility, Address and Phone Number

Name of Patient/ID

Date of Breast Imaging

Dear Patient:

Your recent [mammogram or breast ultrasound or breast MRI] showed an area that we believe is **probably benign** (probably not cancer). However, in 6 months, you should **have a follow-up mammogram** to confirm that this area has not changed. Please call for an appointment at [telephone#].

A report of your results was sent to: [referring health care provider].

Your images will become part of your medical record at [facility name]. They will be on file for your ongoing care. If, in the future, you change health care providers or go to a different location for a mammogram, you should tell them where and when this mammogram was done.

Even though mammograms are the best method we have for early detection, not all cancers are found with mammograms. If you feel a lump or have any other reasons for concern, you should tell your health care provider.

Thank you for allowing us to help meet your health care needs.

Sincerely,

Jane Smith, M.D.

Interpreting Radiologist

## American College of Radiology Recommendations for Breast Cancer Screening for Women of Average Risk\*

- Women age 40 and older (who have no symptoms) should have an annual mammogram.
- Screening with mammography should continue as long as the woman is in good health and is willing to undergo additional testing (including biopsy) if an abnormality is detected.

\* If you are or may be at high risk for breast cancer, you should speak with your doctor to decide if additional screening tests might be right for you.