

# Breast Imaging Center of Excellence Requirements



## Overview

The American College of Radiology will recognize breast imaging centers that achieve excellence by seeking and earning accreditation in all of the ACR's voluntary breast imaging accreditation programs and modules in addition to the mandatory Mammography Accreditation Program by providing them a certificate that identifies them as a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence. The College will award the designation and certificate at no additional fee to acknowledge these centers' dedication to improving women's health by participating in these rigorous quality assurance programs. All Breast Imaging Center of Excellence facilities will be identified by the symbol shown below on the ACR's "[Accredited Facility Search](#)" Web page. (Visit [www.acr.org/accreditation.aspx](http://www.acr.org/accreditation.aspx) and click on "Accredited Facility Search.")



In order to receive the ACR's Breast Imaging Center of Excellence designation, a center must be fully accredited in:

- Mammography by the ACR (or an FDA-approved state accrediting body),
- Stereotactic Breast Biopsy by the ACR, and
- Breast Ultrasound by the ACR (including the Ultrasound-Guided Breast Biopsy module)

The ACR is the leader in quality programs for breast imaging. As such, it is developing new initiatives to stay current with the science and technology that drive radiology practice as well as the clinical needs of the profession. In the future, centers may need to meet more rigorous requirements, such as performing expanded audits, to maintain their designation as Breast Imaging Centers of Excellence.

## Certificates

The ACR will send a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence certificate to each center which fulfills and maintains the above requirements. If the center successfully renews its accreditations before they expire, it will retain the designation. The ACR will send the center a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence certificate with a new expiration date after each successful accreditation.

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The certificate expiration date is linked to the earliest expiration date of the three required accreditation programs. For example, if a breast imaging center holds a stereotactic breast biopsy accreditation that expires on May 1, 2008, a breast ultrasound accreditation that expires on May 1, 2009 and a mammography accreditation that expires on May 1, 2010, its Breast Imaging Center of Excellence certificate will expire on May 1, 2008. If the center successfully renews its stereotactic breast biopsy accreditation prior to May 1, 2008, it will receive a new Breast Imaging Center of Excellence certificate that will expire on May 1, 2009. If the center allows any of its required accreditations to expire, it will no longer be designated a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence.

In most cases, centers will not need to complete any forms to receive a certificate. The ACR will consult its database and **automatically** send a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence certificate after each successful required accreditation if a center's

- Mammography facility is accredited by the ACR,
- Mammography, stereotactic breast biopsy and breast ultrasound facilities have exactly the same name, and
- Mammography, stereotactic breast biopsy and breast ultrasound facilities are at the same physical location.

Some centers will need to specifically request a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence designation. Because the ACR cannot maintain records of facilities accredited by state mammography accrediting bodies in its database, eligible centers accredited in mammography by states will need to provide the ACR a copy of their current Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) certificate and complete a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence request form.

The ACR has no way of identifying a breast imaging center's accredited facilities if they have different names or are located at different physical locations. These eligible centers will also need to complete a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence request form in order to receive a certificate.

<b>How to Obtain Breast Imaging Center of Excellence Certificates</b>		
<b>If Center's</b>	<b>ACR Automatically Sends Certificate</b>	<b>Center Must Request Certificate</b>
1) Mammography facility is accredited by ACR, <b>and</b> 2) Mammography, stereotactic breast biopsy and breast ultrasound facilities have exactly the same name, <b>and</b> 3) Mammography, stereotactic breast biopsy and breast ultrasound facilities are at the same physical location	✓	
Mammography facility is accredited by state ( <i>and not ACR</i> )		✓
Mammography, stereotactic breast biopsy and breast ultrasound facilities have different names ( <i>see your ACR accreditation certificates</i> )		✓
Mammography, stereotactic breast biopsy and breast ultrasound facilities are at different physical locations		✓

The ACR will send the Breast Imaging Center of Excellence certificate to the lead interpreting physician for the center's mammography facility. Centers may obtain additional or replacement certificates upon request for a small fee.

## **Additional Information**

Visit the ACR web site at [www.acr.org](http://www.acr.org) and click on "Accreditation" for request forms and further information on the [Breast Imaging Centers of Excellence](#) as well as information on all of the ACR's [accreditation programs](#). To contact the ACR Breast Imaging Accreditation office by phone, dial (800) 227-6440.