

How Long Must Mammogram Films Be Retained?

This question was recently posed and I thought many of us would like to have the answer refreshed, so here it is:

Citation: 900.12(c)(4)(i), (ii): Recordkeeping. Each facility that performs mammograms:

- (i) Shall (except as provided in paragraph (c)(4)(ii) of this section) maintain mammography films and reports in a permanent medical record of the patient for a period of not less than 5 years, or not less than 10 years if no additional mammograms of the patient are performed at the facility, or a longer period if mandated by State or local law; and,
- (ii) Shall upon request by, or on behalf of, the patient, permanently or temporarily transfer the original mammograms and copies of the patient's reports to a medical institution, or to a physician or healthcare provider of the patient or to the patient directly.

You may find additional information at:

www.fda.gov/cdrh/mammography/robohelp/recordkeeping.htm

This same site provides information about what to do with mammogram films if your facility is going to go out of the mammography business. Please go to this site for more information.