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**Invision Sally Jobe Breast Network
Praises New Mammography Screening Guidelines**
New government guidelines support earlier mammography screening

DENVER — Invision Sally Jobe is applauding new mammography screening guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Under the new rules, health care providers are required to cover annual mammogram screenings for women starting at age 40, reversing previous, controversial guidelines that limited screenings by age and frequency.

“The guidelines should never have been changed to begin with,” said Lora D. Barke, D.O., medical director of the Invision Sally Jobe Breast Network, a community-based provider of diagnostic imaging services. “But this is definitely the right message and a step forward in patient care. It should clear up a lot of confusion.”

In November 2009, the U.S. Preventives Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommended that women refrain from getting mammograms until age 50 and continue every two years thereafter. The sudden change effectively rescinded the task force’s widely accepted 2002 guidelines, which recommended annual screening mammography for women in their 40s and 50s. The decision caused confusion among providers, physicians and patients.

The USPSTF’s misguided decision, Barke said, was made by a small group of people relying on misinterpreted and incomplete data.

“So, after all this effort and confusion brought on by the USPSTF, the country is going back to guidelines that are supported by solid data,” noted Barke. “It has made life harder on everyone, but the bottom line is that reverting to the 2002 guidelines is the right thing to do.”

Barke believes that screening with mammography supported by clinical data is a much better approach than sitting back and waiting for things to happen. When breast cancer is found early, for example, the five-year survival rate is greater than 95 percent. Still, she cautioned that the debate surrounding mammography screening and diagnosis is not over.

“There will always be controversy, and a lot of that probably will come down to funding. Our mission at the Invision Sally Jobe Breast Network, however, remains the same: to provide comprehensive breast care to the community and to save lives through early detection,” continued Barke.

The new HHS screening recommendations include preventive services with a USPSTF “grade” of A or B, including breast and colon cancer screenings. The announcement carries out provisions in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act passed earlier this year that were designed to promote disease prevention.

Invision Sally Jobe has and will continue to follow the American Cancer Society’s current screening guidelines, aligned with 2002 USPSTF guidelines, which state that women at average risk for breast cancer should have their first mammogram by age 40 and should repeat mammograms every one to two years thereafter.

More information about the new regulations is available at www.healthcare.gov. Women with questions about the new mammography screening guidelines can contact Invision Sally Jobe at 720-493-3700 or visit www.InvisionSallyJobe.com. On Facebook: www.Facebook.com/InvisionSallyJobe.

About Invision Sally Jobe

Invision Sally Jobe is a network of medical imaging centers that offers full-service diagnostic imaging in several convenient Denver metro locations. Services include state-of-the-art MRI, CT, digital mammography, diagnostic x-ray, ultrasound, pain management, NIVA and osteoporosis testing. The Invision Sally Jobe Breast Network is Colorado’s only Certified Quality Breast Center. Invision Sally Jobe is a joint venture with HealthOne and Radiology Imaging Associates and is committed to excellence in service to patients and referring physicians. Call 720-493-3700 or visit www.InvisionSallyJobe.com for more information.

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