

**Guideline for workup of breast complaints
through the Emergency Department (ED):**

1. **For patients presenting with any palpable/clinical finding of concern and/or symptoms of infection (mastitis or breast abscess) → consult general surgery residents for evaluation.**

General surgery residents will discuss with attending surgeons and place orders for appropriate imaging workup, as needed. Patient information will then be relayed to Breast Center navigators/clinical staff, who will ensure imaging appointments and clinic visits are appropriately triaged and scheduled.

2. **For patients presenting with mastodynia (breast pain) in the absence of a clinical finding → refer to primary care.**

Primary care will determine appropriateness of imaging workup and referral to breast surgery as needed. If a patient does not have a standing PCP, primary care will schedule them with a new provider.

Additional points:

- We very strongly discourage use of “chest ultrasound” in favor of dedicated breast imaging to be performed at the Department of Breast Imaging during regular business hours, as images are usually unsatisfactory for proper evaluation.
- Imaging and clinic visit appointments will be triaged by Comprehensive Breast Center staff in order to avoid delays of care.
- Residents will be expected to answer consultations as per pre-established guidelines. This will be monitored by Dr.Stone and the Department of Surgery.
- We may revisit the guideline in 3-6 months as needed for quality purposes.

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