WHAT IS BREAST IMAGING?
Women’s care continues to be a priority at Shawnee Mission Medical Center. We provide full service imaging care with Digital Mammography, Breast Ultrasound and Breast MRI exams.

DIGITAL MAMMOGRAPHY
WHAT IS DIGITAL MAMMOGRAPHY?
Mammography is an X-ray exam that produces images of the internal structures of the breasts. It is the most accurate method in evaluating the entire breast. These images can detect lumps that are too small to be felt by you or your doctor, as well as abnormal calcifications. Digital mammography produces superior images with very small radiation exposure. The American Cancer Society recommends mammography, breast self-examination and periodic exams by your doctor as the best means to detect breast cancer in its earliest stages.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR A MAMMOGRAM?
Wear comfortable clothing and be prepared to change into a caped gown. Please do not use deodorant, body lotion, or body powder around or near the breast area prior to the examination. If you have had a prior mammogram at another facility, please bring the report and films with you the day of the exam for comparison.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE EXAM?
All exams are performed by female registered technologists who have had specialized training and certification in mammography. Your technologist will take a brief history from you and then have you change into a gown. A routine mammogram consists of four pictures, two of each breast. The technologist will firmly, but gently, pull as much breast tissue as possible onto the X-ray detector. She will then apply compression to firmly press your breast against the detector. You may find the compression uncomfortable for a few seconds. Adequate compression is essential to view all breast tissue. After the technologist has completed the exam, she will review the images and confirm with the radiologist that no further X-rays are necessary. The examination will take approximately 30 minutes.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE EXAM?
Your mammogram images will be reviewed by our on-site radiologist, after the exam has been completed. The radiologist may consult with you at that time and recommend additional imaging or an ultrasound exam. You will be given a written preliminary report at the conclusion of the exam. All abnormal reports are called to the referring physician’s office while the patient is still at our clinic. Exam results are provided to the referring physician within 24 hours of the exam.

BREAST ULTRASOUND
WHAT IS BREAST ULTRASOUND?
Breast ultrasound is an accurate, noninvasive means of evaluating the solid or cystic nature of breast masses. It is usually used in conjunction with a mammogram to characterize a questionable area viewed on the X-ray image. This examination provides localized imaging of a suspicious area, as well as examination of the entire breast. Palpable masses can be evaluated and diagnosed for further treatment, if needed.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR A BREAST ULTRASOUND?
You should wear comfortable clothing and be prepared to change into a caped gown. The examination will take approximately 20 minutes.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE EXAM?
During the examination, the technologist applies a water-soluble gel to the surface of the breast allowing optimal views of the breast tissue, while using a handheld sound device. The technologist will obtain multiple images of the area in question.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE EXAM?
Your Ultrasound images will be reviewed by our on-site radiologist, after the exam has been completed. The radiologist may consult with you at that time. Patients are given a verbal preliminary report at the conclusion of the exam. All abnormal reports are called to the referring physician’s office while the patient is still at our clinic. All exam results are provided to the referring physician within 24 hours of the exam.

Our Nurse Navigators are here for you every step of the way. With more than 45 years of experience, they can answer your questions, help you communicate with your team of health care providers, connect you to support services or simply provide a compassionate listening ear.

BREAST MRI
WHAT IS A BREAST MRI EXAM?
Breast MRI is an advanced, noninvasive means of evaluating breast tissue. It is typically used in conjunction with mammography and breast ultrasound. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) uses powerful magnetic fields and advanced computer technology to produce specific images of the breast. This exam is valuable when assessing the following conditions:
• Women recently diagnosed with breast cancer, undergoing preoperative evaluation.
• Women with known breast cancer, assessing for new or recurrent cancer.
• Women with significantly elevated breast cancer risk factors, including screening in women who are known or likely carriers of the BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR A BREAST MRI?
You should wear comfortable clothing and be prepared to change into a gown. If you have had a prior mammogram at another facility, please bring the report and films with you the day of the exam for comparison. Patients should arrive 15-30 minutes prior to the exam to provide a health history.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE EXAM?
Breast MRI exams require the injection of a contrast media. Special precautions may be taken for patients with the following conditions:
* diminished renal function
* pregnant or breastfeeding
* claustrophobic
* patients with a pacemaker or battery operated device that cannot be removed.
* specific intra-cranial aneurysm clips
* specific eye and ear implants.
The examination should take 45 minutes to 1 hour.
WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE EXAM?
You may resume your usual activities and normal diet immediately after the exam.

For additional information regarding breast imaging go to:

QUESTIONS?
If you have any questions or concerns about your exam, please call 913.676.2505 or e-mail smmcimaging@shawneemission.org.