St. Joseph Healthcare has introduced 3D Mammography, the latest advance in breast imaging, at our Regional Breast Care Center in Bangor. This will make a huge difference in how breast cancer is detected, diagnosed and treated.

Why 3D? We introduced this new technology for many reasons

- As the name implies, 3D mammography provides three-dimensional images of the breast. These pictures are sharper and much more precise than standard 2-dimensional imaging.
- Sharper imaging saves lives, through earlier detection, at a time when cancer is most successfully treated.
- Our community has affirmed the need – funding for this groundbreaking, life-saving technology was provided entirely by gifts from our donors in our 2016 Annual Campaign.

What does 3D Mammography mean to me?

- **Dense breasts? No worries.** 3D imaging offers clear images even in women with dense breast tissue, which sometimes renders regular mammography ineffective.
- **Same dose imaging.** Along with improved imaging, 3D mammography is achieved using the same X-ray dose and level of comfort as before. Our 3D mammography system delivers the lowest patient dose of all FDA approved systems.
- **Precise imaging – better answers.** 3D imaging can tell more precisely the difference between cancer and harmless growths in the breast. 3D detects 41 percent* more cancers and reduces the number of false-positive results given to patients. In most non-cancer cases 3D mammography by itself can ensure you are cancer-free, ruling out the need for biopsy.
- **Early detection is always the best protection.** 3D mammography can pinpoint cancer at much earlier stages, greatly increasing the likelihood of successful treatment and cure.

What about the cost? Am I covered for 3D Mammography?

Medicare covers the cost of your 3D mammogram. Other insurance providers may or may not fully cover your 3D mammogram. As with any diagnostic or screening exam, you may incur either or both a facility fee (for the mammography exam) and/or a professional reading fee (from the radiologist who interprets your images). These charges could total up to $200. You should check with your insurance carrier regarding coverage and/or co-pays that may be required for 3D mammography.

*Source: bestmedicine.com