



**Kansas City VA Medical Center, Office of Public Affairs, 4801 E. Linwood Blvd, KCMo**

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**Date of Response: April 27, 2017**

**Media: WDAF- FOX4**

**Topic: Veteran Mammogram availability at Kansas City VA Medical Center**

**Response:** Thank you for your inquiry regarding mammography services at Kansas City VA Medical Center (KCVAMC).

Mammography is not offered at the KCVAMC. The possibility of developing such a program has been explored on different occasions but, the relatively low volume of Veterans sent into the community does not incur costs that would equal or surpass the costs of developing and maintaining a comprehensive program.

In fiscal year 2016, KCVAMC referred 1,361 mammography cases into the local community. Mammography is but a small part of a larger comprehensive program and not an isolated screening procedure in itself. Suspected abnormalities require further testing such as diagnostic mammography with specialized views, breast ultrasounds, MRI's, or biopsy services. Identified abnormalities may require the services of breast surgical experts or oncological/radiation therapy experts.

Mammography requires many levels of services to provide comprehensive care. In order for KCVAMC to effectively provide this service, we would need to meet U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) practice guidelines, obtain qualified staff, and maintain a continuous certification and extensive quality control program to ensure the availability of all the additional services needed to follow up on any abnormal exam reports. These require specific timely follow-up and possibility additional procedures as mentioned above.

There are several established breast imaging and treatment programs available within the Kansas City Metropolitan community close to KCVAMC that are both accredited to meet FDA and state quality standard requirements. Taking this into consideration, KCVAMC continues to leverage our community partners through the Choice and Non-VA Care Programs to utilize certified mammography sites within the community. This ensures all KCVAMC Veterans receive their care at a location of their choice and convenience.

KCVAMC appreciates FOX4's continual support of our #KCVAMCHeroes and the support of our mission.

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Facebook ([www.facebook.com/VAKansasCity](https://www.facebook.com/VAKansasCity))  
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Kansas City VAMC, and its seven Community-Based Outpatient Clinics, provides care for over 47,000 Veterans annually.

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