

A Buyer's Guide to a Mammography Information System

A comprehensive guide to evaluating and choosing a Mammography Information System that supports the needs and goals of your breast center.

A hand is shown pointing upwards with the index finger. The background is a circular graphic with a world map made of dots and lines, and a glowing orange light behind the hand. The overall theme is technology and healthcare.

Smarter mammography workflow. Better patient care.

A Mammography Information System solves workflow inefficiencies commonly found in breast imaging, making it possible to see more patients daily - while also optimizing care delivery and the patient experience.

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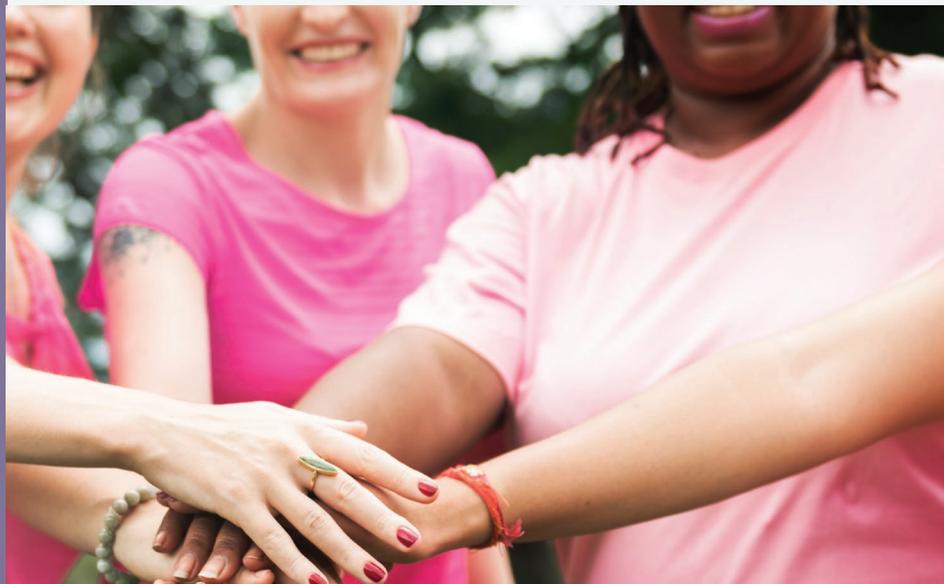
Defining a Mammography Information System

A Mammography Information System (MIS), which can also be referred to as a Mammography Tracking & Reporting System, is a dedicated sub-specialty software solution that allows breast imaging centers to track and manage all patient data from one central platform.

A MIS offers far greater efficiencies than standard EHR-based mammography tracking modules.

If a facility doesn't have a dedicated MIS, staff are likely tracking patients and statistics manually via spreadsheets.

A MIS is a dedicated sub-specialty software platform that allows breast imaging centers to track and manage all their patient's data from one central platform.



Determining whether your center needs a MIS

Breast centers and radiology groups can experience many benefits from using a Mammography Information System. The following are common reasons providers decide to explore a dedicated Mammography Tracking & Reporting System:



⇒ MQSA Compliance

The annual MQSA inspection requires intense preparation from breast centers, but a MIS can greatly reduce the stress involved. When the inspectors need data, the MIS makes it readily available in a format that's easy to understand.



⇒ Patient Letters

One MQSA requirement is that patients be notified of their results within 30 days. A MIS can manage all patient notification letters, which include the patient's breast density. Reminder letters for annual mammograms, or any follow-up interval, are also part of the system.



⇒ Patient Tracking

A MIS effectively tracks patients in a variety of ways. Even better, a MIS tracks at a lesion level, not a study level. While study-level tracking is common, this method fails to capture the needs of patients who present with multiple lesions or findings from a single study. A MIS is built to ensure no patient slips through the cracks and provides tools to increase patient return rate.

➔ Risk Score Calculation

Interested in building a high-risk breast screening program? [Click Here](#) to learn more about risk assessment software and access a free guide on tips for building a high-risk program.

High-risk breast screening has quickly become the standard of care. There are online calculators and stand-alone risk assessment software systems on the market, but the most robust Mammography Information Systems are fully integrated with multiple risk model options, making it easy to screen your entire patient population and flag high risk patients.. A MIS automates the process of running risk scores as well as other pieces of the workflow that are essential in setting up and maintaining a high-risk screening program.

➔ Radiologist Structured Reporting

A MIS includes an option for Radiologists to create structured results commonly referred to as “point and click” reporting. Structured reporting in a MIS provides a breast imaging center the advantage of consistent and uniform results as well as a significant reduction in liability from missing a key element or making an error. Additionally, if using structured reporting in the MIS, the integration into the workflow allows the benefit of pre-populated patient information as well as automation of the patient’s letter and follow-up protocol. If structured reporting is not of interest, most MIS systems provide integration with third party dictation systems.

➔ Workflow Efficiencies

A MIS system can add automation to many different areas of a breast imaging center’s workflow and replace a manual process that might be in place today.



Deciding when you should implement a MIS

Don't wait and get left behind by your competition! Let's take a look at some common reasons businesses delay implementing a Mammography Information System, and why these scenarios may actually represent the perfect time to move forward.



“OUR VOLUME IS LOW”

A MIS can help any size facility meet patient care, reporting, and MQSA compliance needs. In fact, due to the manual processes often in use, smaller facilities may be at greater risk of overlooking critical details that could lead to concerns about patient care and liability.



“OUR PROCESS WORKS”

Although an existing process may seem to work, it's critical to keep up with your competition. In the ever-changing landscape of healthcare, every facility can benefit from the new, cutting-edge technologies that are integrated into a MIS solution.



“WE ALREADY HAVE A MAMMO MODULE WITH OUR EHR SYSTEM”

Although some EHR modules offer basic functionalities to support breast centers, they're typically quite limited and still require manual processes. In contrast, a dedicated MIS provides sub-specialty software dedicated to meeting unique facility needs to optimize patient care and workflow efficiencies.

To learn more about the differences between an EHR-based mammo module and a dedicated Mammography Information System, check out “40 Questions to Ask Your RIS/EHR vendor,” at www.magview.com/comparison.

Finding the best MIS solution for your center

Choosing the right Mammography Information System for your center is a crucial decision. The system you choose will involve a long-term investment, and have a major impact on daily activities affecting both patients and staff.

In that light, it's important to conduct proper research and make sure you find the Mammography Information System that fits your specific needs. The following three steps can help guide your research and decision-making journey.

01

Step 1: Assess your breast imaging workflow.

Answering the following questions about your current workflow can help identify areas that might need to be improved.

Assessment Questions	Answer / Notes	Goals / Room for Improvement?
What is your current process for collecting patient history?		
How do the radiologists view the patient's history?		
How are risk assessment scores being calculated?		
How do your radiologists create their finding reports?		
What is your current process for notifying a patient of their results?		
How long does it take a patient to complete their exam from the time they walk in the door to when they leave?		
What does your technologist workflow look like?		
What is your process for preparing for an MQSA inspection and providing data for meeting accreditation requirements?		

02

Step 2: Define goals and planning needs.

In order to properly prepare, it's important to include all stakeholders in the discussion to ensure each department's needs are taken into consideration. The following questions can help inform both goals and the planning process:

Who would use the Mammography Information System? Who would take ownership for ensuring training and oversight?

What are some short-term goals that a MIS will help you achieve?

What are some long-term goals that a MIS will help you achieve?

03

Step 3: Evaluate vendors.

When it comes to finding the right vendor, due diligence is important. Here are a few things to consider during a demonstration:

Did the sales rep take the time to learn about your current set up and pain points? The sales rep should possess a detailed understanding of your operation to properly demonstrate what unique benefits their MIS can provide.

Is the demo live? It's important to see a live demo instead of one that's been recorded. This provides the opportunity to ask center-specific questions so the rep can address them through a real-time demonstration.

Does the demo cover your entire workflow? The demo should cover the entire breast imaging workflow -including patient intake, technologist workflow and exam, radiologist reading, patient communication, and follow-up. It's also important to understand how an administrator would interact with the software.

What do you know about the company? Learn about more than just the software since the team behind the product plays a big role in creating a successful partnership. Asking questions about their implementation, support, and account management teams will help you get an idea of how you be supported as a customer.

General workflow areas that should be discussed in a demo:

- Breast History Collection
- Technologist Workflow
- Radiologist Workflow
- Risk Assessment Models
- Patient Notification and Communication
- General Patient Follow-up Protocol
- Pathology
- Data Reporting + Compliance
- Navigation
- Interfacing

Getting started with your MIS solution

Once you choose the Mammography Information System that's right for you, it'll be time to start implementing. Here are a few steps you can take prior to project kick-off to ensure a successful implementation.

- ➔ Begin thinking about how your system will be hosted and deployed.
- ➔ Establish remote access for your new MIS partners.
- ➔ Inform your team and begin to build excitement! Doing so early on helps everyone get on board.
- ➔ Build a project team that includes both technical and clinical resources.
- ➔ Ask your MIS vendor to share project documents right away so you can be aware of decision-making needs that will come up during the implementation.



Building excitement around your new Mammography Information System will lead to a smooth transition and quicker adoption of the technology.



Keep in touch! Subscribe to your vendor's email list to stay up-to-date on new products.

Adopting a strategic approach for success

Once you've implemented your new Mammography Information System, there are a few things you can do to make sure you're getting the most out of it. To ensure optimization, consider :

- ➔ Signing up for support portal(s) to easily interact with your vendor's support team.
- ➔ Subscribing to the vendor's email list to stay up to date on company news, version updates, and new products.
- ➔ Working closely with your vendor's Account Manager, who can visit after implementation to assess your new workflow and provide any needed support.



Get in Touch

Discover how MagView improves patient experience, staff efficiency, and radiologist productivity while delivering meaningful outcomes and actionable data insight for breast centers.

To request a demo, email sales@magview.com or call 1-800-553-8996.



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MagView has been focusing on the needs of breast centers and mammography departments since 1992, when the first version of MagView was developed for the American College of Radiology, with input from the ACR BI-RADS™ Committee. MagView quickly became a powerful and effective system for standardized reporting, outcome monitoring, patient tracking, and departmental management.

The MagView software solution is a product created with input from hundreds of radiologists and breast center staff members. Trusted at over 2,500 facilities, including many of the top cancer hospitals, MagView is the leader in mammography workflow solutions.

Want to learn more? **Contact MagView** for a consultation and live demonstration.