



axene health partners
HEALTH ACTUARIES & CONSULTANTS

Diagnostic and Supplemental Exams and Biopsies for Breast Cancer – Cost Sharing

Presentation to the Maryland Health Care Commission – December 24, 2023

Legislative Background

Senate Bill 108 introduced in the 2023 legislation

- **Key provisions**

- Eliminate cost-sharing for diagnostic image-guided biopsies for breast cancer

- **Status**

- Bill did pass with an effective date of January 1, 2024
- MHCC retained Axene Health Partners to perform appropriate fiscal, medical and social analysis in compliance with Article §15–1501

Key Findings

Social Evaluation

- Breast cancer will impact 1 in every 8 women
- Breast cancer is easier to treat and the chances of survival increase when breast cancer is detected early

Medical Evaluation

- Under a biopsy, tissue is removed from the breast and sent to the lab for testing
- Biopsies are performed to confirm a cancer diagnosis when an abnormality is present

Financial Evaluation

- The financial impact for this mandate on claims costs is \$0.37 per member per month or 0.06% of total costs, which includes the impact of additional screenings, the elimination of the cost share, and medical savings due to early detection.
- If applicable, the expected costs of defrayals is \$4.8 million.

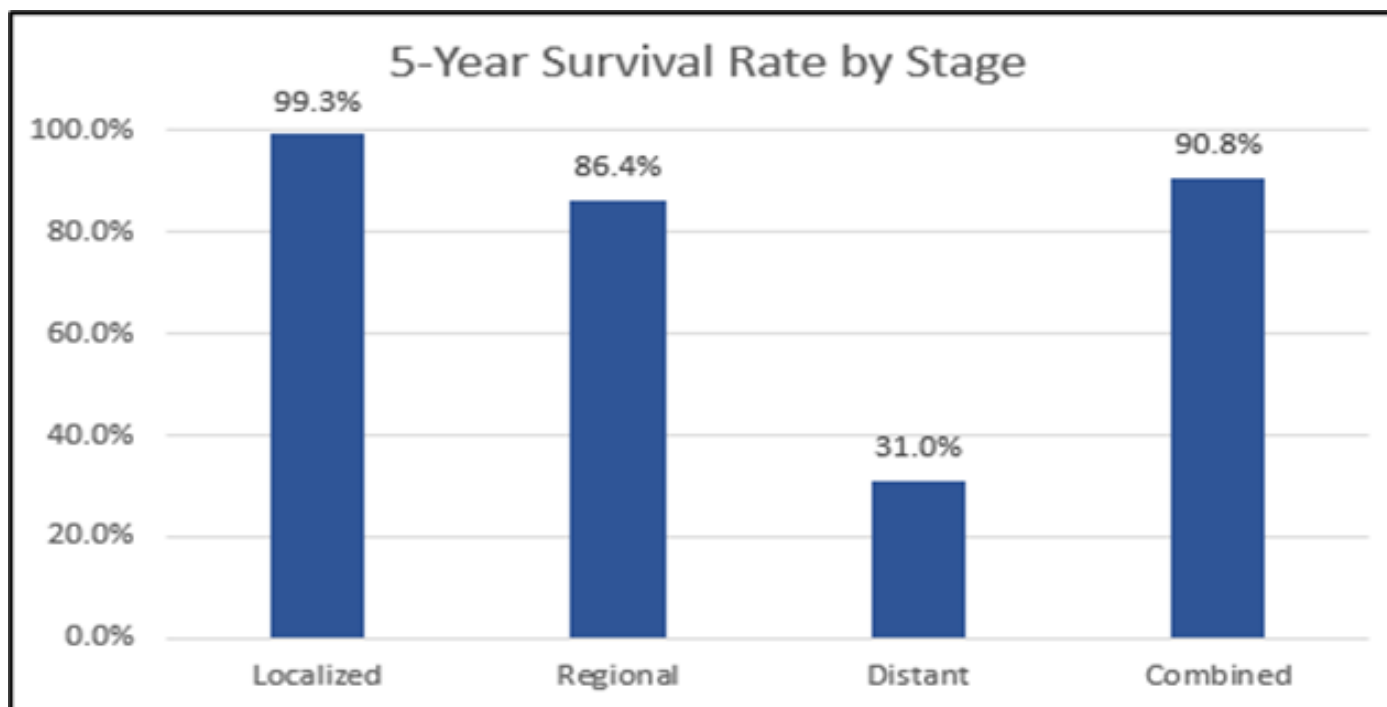
Social Evaluation

- **Breast cancer will impact 1 in every 8 women**
 - Estimated 300,000 new cases in 2023
 - 43,000 deaths attributable to breast cancer
- **ACA implications**
 - Breast cancer screenings are considered preventive
 - The follow-up autopsy may or may not be preventive under prior law

Medical Analysis

- **USPSTF recommends regular screenings**
- **The screening process**
 - Self-examination
 - Clinical examination
 - Screening mammograms
- **Diagnosis**
 - Additional screening
 - Biopsy the only way to confirm cancer diagnosis
- **Treatment**
 - Surgery
 - Radiation
 - Chemotherapy
 - Immunotherapy
 - Target therapy

5-Year Survival Rates



Financial Analysis

- **Total impact: \$0.33 PMPM or 0.06% of total costs**
 - Additional Screenings: \$0.21
 - Cost share elimination: \$0.14
 - Medical savings: (\$0.02)
- **Premium costs**
 - Assume an 85% loss ratio
 - Premium impact = \$0.39 ($\$0.33 \div 85\%$)
- **Defrayal costs, if applicable: \$4.3 million**
 - May not be applicable since it is not an additional benefit
 - Based on premium, assuming an 85% loss ratio

Questions

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