Contrast-Enhanced Mammography (CEM)

OIC ordering paradigm for supplemental, diagnostic, and preoperative breast imaging

KEY PRINCIPLE **Mammography remains the first-line breast screening examination. At OIC, CEM is ordered as supplemental, diagnostic, or preoperative imaging - not as a stand-alone screening examination.**

When to order CEM

SUPPLEMENTAL
(CEM as Supplemental imaging)

- Supplemental for patients with dense breasts (average/intermediate risk)
- High-risk patients with absolute MRI contraindication

DIAGNOSTIC
(CEM as Diagnostic imaging)

- Mammographic abnormality without sonographic correlate
- Nipple discharge evaluation
- Occult primary search (Axillary adenopathy)

PREOPERATIVE
(CEM for Staging/Restaging/Planning)

- Extent of disease staging with absolute MRI contraindication
- Neoadjuvant chemotherapy response with absolute MRI contraindication

How CEM fits with other OIC breast imaging

PATHWAY	ORDERING GUIDANCE
Mammography	**Use for:** Routine breast cancer screening and as the foundation of the OIC breast imaging pathway. **Important:** As per the American College of Radiology and Society of Breast Imaging OIC does not substitute screening ultrasound when a patient declines mammography based solely on preference.
Breast MRI	**Consider for:** Greater than 20% risk, patients younger than 30, or surgeon-ordered evaluation of disease extent. **Known cancer:** Additional imaging workup should be directed by the breast surgeon.
Complete bilateral breast ultrasound	**Reserve for:** Implant integrity; patients unable to undergo MRI or CEM; high-risk patients too young for mammography or unable to undergo MRI; or patients physically unable to tolerate mammography because of disability.

ORDERING NOTE For a second-look CEM or when density, risk, age, and contraindications create overlapping criteria, contact OIC Scheduling to confirm the current exam name and most appropriate order.