The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG), has joined, as of July 2011, the American Cancer Society (ACS), the American College of Radiology, (ACR), and many other major medical associations in recommending annual mammograms for women beginning at age 40.

The group has changed it’s guidelines due to the incidence of rapidly progressing breast cancer in younger women and the potential to reduce deaths from it when caught early. Data shows that since mammography screening became widespread in 1990, the U.S. breast cancer death rate, previously unchanged for 50 years, has dropped 37 percent.