

What happens if I find cancer? Who will pay for my treatment?

If you are screened through this program (IBCCP) and found to have cancer, you may be able to get your treatment covered through a special program managed by the Illinois Department of Public Aid. *You must be screened through IBCCP to get a referral for this treatment coverage.* Call the Women's Health-Line listed below for more information about treatment.

How can I get more information?

To find out if you are eligible and where to go for these free screening tests, call

Women's Health-Line
1-888-522-1282

TTY (hearing impaired use only)
1-888-547-1466

Illinois Department of Public Health
Office of Women's Health
www.idph.state.il.us

Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois
P.O. #605440 100M 7/04

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Illinois Department of Public Health



**Illinois Women
May Qualify for
Free Screenings**

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor
Eric E. Whitaker, M.D., M.P.H., Director

How common are breast and cervical cancers?

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women. It is curable if found in the earliest stages so it is important that women take the time to be tested. Today, nearly 2 million women living in the United States have been treated for breast cancer; most of these women are living normal lives. Many did not need to have a breast removed because they found the cancer early.

Cervical cancer is also common and curable if found early. About 12,000 American women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer this year. Often there are no symptoms, so it is important that women have a Pap test (Pap smear). The Pap test can find any abnormal changes that could turn into cancer. There are treatments that remove these cells before they become cancer.

Simply being female is the biggest risk factor for breast cancer; more than 70 percent of women diagnosed with the disease have no other known risk factors.

(Source: National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations)

What can I do to make sure I do not have breast or cervical cancer?

- ✓ Starting at age 20, have a doctor or nurse check your breasts for any problems once a year.
- ✓ If you are at a higher than average risk of breast cancer, talk with your health care provider about whether you should have mammograms before age 40, and how often to have them.
- ✓ If you are over age 40 and are not at higher than average risk, have a mammogram every one to two years.
- ✓ Do breast self-exams once a month and report any changes to your health care provider. Remember, most lumps are NOT cancer, but they should be checked to make sure.
- ✓ Have a Pap test once a year if you are 18 years old, or earlier if you are sexually active.
- ✓ Women who qualify for the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program can receive FREE mammograms, breast exams and Pap tests ANNUALLY.

What if I cannot afford these tests and I have no insurance?

If you live in Illinois and do not have insurance, you may be eligible for a free mammogram, breast exam and Pap test. The Illinois Department of Public Health, through the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP), provides these important screening tests annually at no cost at many locations throughout Illinois.

Illinois women may be eligible for free screenings if they meet certain guidelines:

- ✓ Women between the ages of 40 and 64 may qualify for a free mammogram and breast exam. If a woman younger than 40 suspects a breast problem, she also may be eligible for these screening services.
- ✓ Women between the ages of 35 and 64 may qualify for a free Pap test. If a woman younger than 35 suspects a cervical problem, she may be eligible for this screening test.
- ✓ Women must have no health insurance or be under insured for screening only.
- ✓ Women must have a limited income and meet the program's other guidelines.