

BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING

EARLY DETECTION

Thanks to significant partnerships with the *Louisiana Breast and Cervical Health Program*, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the American Cancer Society, important infrastructure for the early detection of breast cancer was established at many of the HCSD hospitals.

The Model of Breast Cancer Early Detection and Care

The establishment of a multi-specialty breast clinic at MCLNO four years ago had led to:

- the times to diagnosis and to treatment were decreased dramatically. (see charts);
- a “stage shift” of breast cancers from later to earlier stages at diagnosis;
- finding breast cancer at earlier stages means that women have more options for treatment and a better chance for survival, and treatments are more cost effective;

Almost all of the HCSD hospitals improved the mammography screening rates, reaching the “Health People 2010” benchmark far in advance of 2010.

Cervical Cancer can be prevented through early detection and treatment of precancerous conditions. Such screening and treatment is incredibly cost effective. These efforts have also benefited immensely from the funding provided by the *Louisiana Breast and Cervical Health Program*, which provides for:

- Pap tests;
- Colposcopy and other diagnostic and treatment procedures for cervical abnormalities; and
- Case management for women with cervical abnormalities.

New practice guidelines are lengthening the interval recommended between Pap screenings for women at average risk over 30. By eliminating unnecessary testing, screening can be made more cost effective.

Post-Katrina and Rita Responses of HCSD facilities

The Disease Management teams in all of the hospitals have done remarkable jobs of expanding capacity to meet the needs of those displaced from New Orleans and other areas. The *Louisiana Breast and Cervical Health Program* has shifted funds to:

- UMC, Lallie Kemp and Earl K. Long
 - to help these hospitals increase screening and diagnostic follow-up for abnormalities.
- Women’s Hospital of Baton Rouge and the Mary Byrd Perkins Cancer Center
 - mobile mammography for women in New Orleans.
- Kenner Regional Hospital
 - for ultrasounds and biopsies for abnormalities from mobile screenings.

The program will now move forward, strengthening the network for early detection.