



Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

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Increased Income Guidelines

April 11, 2012. Kingsford, Michigan – The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department announced that the income eligibility guidelines for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) have increased. For example, a woman in a family of four with a yearly gross income of \$57,625 may qualify for a free breast and cervical cancer screening at the Health Department. In addition, she must be a Michigan resident between the ages of 40-64 years and un-insured or under-insured. This exam would include a clinical breast exam, Pap test and mammogram. In the event cancer is diagnosed the woman may qualify for the Medicaid Treatment Act which would provide full Medicaid benefits for the duration of the cancer treatment.

“Routine screening is the most important factor in cervical and breast cancer diagnosis” stated Barbara Peterson, BCCCP Coordinator. The BCCCP program provides women with access to life-saving cancer screening and treatment services.

Among Michigan women, breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths and is the most frequently diagnosed cancer. Early detection is the key to survival. With regular screening, breast cancer is more likely to be detected at an earlier stage, when it is most treatable. The five-year survival rate among women whose breast cancer has not spread beyond the breast at the time of diagnosis is 98.6%.

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No one should die from cervical cancer. Experts believe that virtually all cervical cancer deaths could potentially be prevented by a combination of safe sex practices, routine Pap tests, and appropriate follow-up of abnormal screening results. Cervical cancer can be detected early by regular Pap tests; the "Pap test" is a specific test for cervical cancer and is not necessarily the same as a pelvic exam. Most cervical cancers develop over a relatively long period of time. During this time, abnormal tissue can be detected easily by a Pap test, and then removed by a health care provider.

"This program is very important to our BCCCP clients," said Peterson. "Often, the annual exam they receive at the Health Department is the only visit they make to a health care provider." Through this program, women who have breast and cervical cancer will be identified at earlier stages of these diseases, when treatment is less expensive and the survival rate is more favorable.

Peterson stated, "Preventing and identifying disease early is what we are all about. We say, 'Do it for yourself, do it for your family.'"

For more information or an appointment, call the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department at 779-7237 or 265-4166.

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