

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dr. urges women to use holiday as mammogram reminder

Mother's Day is not just a time to remember how women have cared for their families. It's also a time to remember what women need to do to care for themselves.

The American Cancer Society estimates that more than 40,000 people die of breast cancer every year. Many of these could be prevented with a simple yearly screening mammogram.

"With early detection, the odds of surviving breast cancer are in your favor," says West Virginia Medical Institute Medical Director Mark Stephens, MD.

The tools of early detection are regular mammograms, clinical breast exams and monthly self-exams. While all of these tools are important, regular mammograms are the most effective.

Mammography is 80-90% successful in finding breast cancers. The earlier the cancer is found, the better the chance of catching it before it spreads.

Medicare pays 80% of the approved amount for a screening mammogram once every 12 months for women 40 and older. Medicare will also pay for one baseline mammogram for beneficiaries age 35-39.

Stephens urges women to use this holiday as a reminder to schedule their yearly screening. Mammograms save lives and families. Call your doctor to schedule yours today.

For more information on mammography or to find a screening facility in your area call 1.800.4.CANCER or contact the American Cancer Society at 1.800.ACS.345.

The West Virginia Medical Institute, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), protects Medicare patients' rights and works collaboratively with hospitals and other health care providers in West Virginia to assist them in their efforts to improve the quality of the care they deliver. WVMI's affiliate corporations include Quality Insights of Delaware, Quality Insights of Pennsylvania and Quality Insights Renal Network Three in New Jersey.


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