Texas Breast and Cervical Cancer Services (BCCS) Program Releases New Breast Cancer Algorithms for Screening and Diagnosis

Austin, Texas (July 1, 2009) – The Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Breast and Cervical Cancer Services (BCCS) Program has released the new FY2010 breast cancer screening and diagnosis algorithms.

The new algorithms provide an efficient way to incorporate current scientific knowledge into daily practice and ensure adherence to standard guidelines. They will also improve the quality of care by reducing missed diagnoses.

The BCCS program consults with a multidisciplinary clinical workgroup that develops and approves guidelines for screening and diagnoses with consideration for the standards established by such organizations as the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN). Members of the clinical workgroup who participated in the development of the new algorithms include Dr. Thelma Hurd, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio; Dr. Morton Leonard at University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston; and Dr. Lauri Kalanges, Medical Director of Community Health Services Section, at DSHS.

Clinical workgroup members presented the algorithms at the recent DSHS Clinical Conference on June 24th in Austin, Texas. The conference featured two interactive sessions led by Dr. Hurd which utilized an interactive audience response system to gather feedback from those in attendance.

The programmatic implementation for the new algorithms is July 1, 2009. An educational rollout includes laminated color-coded flip cards of the algorithms, laminated posters, educational conference calls, and policy instructions. The new FY2010 breast cancer screening and diagnosis algorithms may be found in the BCCS program policy manual, Section II, Chapter 4, posted on the website www.bccstexas.com.

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