

PARTNERS...

A newsletter for the partners and providers of Early Detection Works, Kansas breast and cervical cancer screening and detection program

Director's Message



As all of you are aware, Early Detection Works (EDW) suspended enrollment for women requesting routine screenings on March 1. New grant funding will be available July 1, at which time we will reinstate the routine enrollment process. Currently, EDW staff continues to qualify women for the program and maintains a waiting list. Women on the waiting list will be contacted near the end of June so they may arrange their appointments in July when funding is available for routine services.

It is important to note that EDW is enrolling women with symptoms for breast or cervical cancer so they can receive necessary diagnostic services (and treatment through Kansas Medicaid if necessary) in a timely manner. Women must call either the toll-free number or regional nurse for eligibility review, and, if they qualify, receive an enrollment number. Should EDW deplete funds for symptomatic women prior to July 1, EDW staff will notify you.

EDW staff appreciates the provider's cooperation in referring clients for appropriate enrollment via the EDW toll-free hotline or regional staff. Three years ago, EDW greatly exceeded the grant budget and to ensure this didn't recur, reviewed various options. A centralized enrollment process was implemented in November 2006, which ensures that providers are paid for EDW women. In preparation for each new grant year, EDW projects the number of women to be served, estimates the number of diagnostics services, and will consider when to suspend enrollments (to ensure that services are paid). In addition, submitting completed client forms accurately and promptly, ensures faster payments. CDC requires data collection, and EDW reports specific data elements biannually (no individual identifiers are provided). This data assists CDC in determining grant awards, along with other program performance measures.

As an early reminder, all forms for services provided January 1, 2008, through June 30, 2008, must be submitted to the regional nurses no later than August 15, 2008, to ensure payment for services. Forms submitted after August 15 are considered late and may not be paid.

"Thank you" to our many partners and providers for their assistance in working through fiscal difficulties this year. EDW hopes that additional funds will be available next year so that more women can receive breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services.

*Janet Neff, Director
Cancer Prevention and Control Program*

Regional Nurses

Northeast

**Linda Redding, RN
785-832-1701**

North Central

**Karla Schmidt, RN
620-241-6465**

South Central

**Sherry Haworth, RN
316-660-7332**

Southeast

**Stephanie Thompson, RN
620-235-7136**

West

**Shelly Nelson, RN
Toll-Free
1-877-275-5302**

**Early Detection Works
Toll-Free Hotline
1-877-277-1368**

May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month

Are you ready to enjoy the sunshine after the long dreary winter? Do you think you are doing all you can to protect your skin when you are out in the sun? You should think again. Most people fall short, miserably short, in reducing their risk of getting skin cancer, a new study from Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia claims. Given that skin cancer rates have increased enough in the past 30 years to give it the dubious distinction of being the most common cancer in the United States, people might want to take more heed while basking in the sun's rays.

Skin cancer can be prevented. Using the following tips to protect your skin from the sun now could decrease your chances of developing skin cancer in the future and help prevent wrinkles.

- Limit your exposure to the sun, especially midday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Seek shady areas, and avoid direct sunlight.

- Wear protective clothing, including a wide-brimmed hat, a long-sleeved shirt, pants and sunglasses that block out ultraviolet rays. Dark, tightly woven clothes are best.

- Use a sunscreen every day, all year, even when it is cloudy. A sunscreen should block ultraviolet rays and have a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 to 30.

- Do not use a tanning bed, either at home or at a salon.

- Apply sunscreen 30 minutes before going out into the sun and/or every 2 hours and reapply after swimming.

One in five Americans including one in three Caucasians will develop skin cancer in the course of their lifetime. Children are especially vulnerable to the sun's damaging rays and one blistering sunburn in childhood more than doubles a person's chances of developing melanoma, the most deadly form of skin cancer, later in life.

Skin cancer is classified in three basic types, basal cell, squamous cell and melanoma. In Kansas, it is estimated that 550 new cases of melanoma will be diagnosed in 2008. Data is not collected on basal and squamous cell cancers. Nationally, the estimate is 67,720 new cases and an estimated 11,200 deaths from the disease.

Most people know what they should do to reduce skin cancer risk – but they do not always put what they know into practice. Many also have to give up the idea that they look better with a little “tan.”

Cancer Program Welcomes New Staff



Stephanie Jackson

Stephanie was hired full-time on April 7, 2008, as the Toll-Free Hotline Operator for the Cancer Prevention and Control Program, after working in the job on a temporary basis since December 2007. She is originally from Overland Park, Kansas, and moved to Topeka to attend Washburn University. She has worked in many capacities and feels she has had a lot of positive experiences before crossing paths with KDHE. She previously worked for 2 other social agencies, an investment firm and an international law firm in the Kansas City area. Stephanie comes from a fairly large family, and loves to spend a great deal of time with them. Her hobbies consist of traveling, dining, shopping and she values solid friendships and a great sense of humor. Stephanie would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff in the Office of Health Promotion for their support and encouragement, as she applied and interviewed for her current position. She says her experience working here has always been positive and she is looking forward to learning a great deal from the Cancer Section staff.

June is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Prostate cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer diagnosed in men in the United States and is the leading cause of cancer deaths in men. National estimates are that more than 186,000 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed in 2008 and more than 28,600 men will die from the disease. In Kansas, 2008 estimates indicate that 1,350 new cases will be diagnosed and the disease will cause 220 deaths.

The prostate gland in men is about the size of a walnut and located just below the bladder. The urethra tube runs through the prostate. Nearly all prostate cancer starts in the gland cells. Although most prostate cancer is found in older men and is very slow growing, it can grow and spread quickly.

The chances of getting prostate cancer increase with age, race, nationality and family history. Risk can also depend on diet and exercise factors as well.

- Two out of three prostate cancers are found in men over the age of 65.
- Men with close family members, such as a father or a brother, who have developed prostate cancer at a young age, are more likely to develop the disease. High levels of male hormones also may play a part in developing prostate cancer.
- Prostate cancer is more common among African-American men and Jamaican men of African descent. The disease occurs less often in Asians than in Whites.
- Prostate cancer is more common in North America and Northwestern Europe and less common in Asia and South America.
- Studies suggest that a diet high in saturated fat also may be a risk factor.
- Men over the age of 65 who exercise vigorously and on a regular basis have a lower rate of prostate cancer.

It is possible to screen for prostate cancer before any symptoms develop, however studies have shown that this may not reduce the number of deaths from the disease. Screening should begin at age 50 and men should discuss with their health care professional the possible benefits and harms of being screened. The screening tests include a digital rectal exam to check the prostate for lumps and/or a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test. The PSA test can detect early-stage prostate cancer but there is inconclusive evidence that it improves health outcomes for men.

Early Detection Works and Family Planning Partnership

For many years Early Detection Works (EDW) has had a collegial relationship with the Title X Family Planning Program. The relationship was based on the premise of transitioning women who no longer need contraception (e.g. have had a hysterectomy or are post menopausal) into EDW for breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services.

To ensure that a woman receives appropriate services, when screening for program eligibility, EDW staff will be asking women if they still need some form of contraception. If a woman indicates that she still has a need for contraception, EDW counsels the woman related to the availability of family planning clinics or other health care service providers. During the course of the family planning pelvic, Pap and clinical breast exam (CBE) assessments, should abnormalities be detected, these women will be referred to the EDW program for further breast and/or cervical diagnostic tests. EDW regional nurses can assist local agencies in identifying resources for screening mammograms for women less than age 50.

EDW encourages family planning clinics to educate those women who no longer require contraception about the cancer screening services provided by EDW and how to access the program. With mutual referral and education, each program can better serve its target population. Each program will be better able to provide the most comprehensive services possible for those women who otherwise might not have access to breast and cervical cancer screening services in Kansas.

SAVE THE DATE

Early Detection Works and Susan G. Komen for the Cure will host a conference focusing on African-American women and breast cancer. Mark October 29, 2008, on your calendar. The event will be held in Wichita. More information will be available soon.

Early detection can save your life.



Cancer Program Welcomes New Staff



Kim Lowry

Kim started with the Cancer Prevention and Control Program as a Public Health Educator on March 3, 2008. She has spent her career working in Topeka and Lawrence and lives in the Tecumseh area. She previously worked for the Lawrence Memorial Hospital Endowment Association doing fundraising and event coordination and most recently, was the Marketing and Development Director for the Douglas County Visiting Nurses, Rehabilitation and Hospice Care organization in Lawrence. Kim has three children, two still living at home and a two-year old grandson. Her hobbies consist of traveling, reading, volunteering and spending time with her kids and grandson at their numerous activities. Kim spent nine years as a volunteer firefighter/EMT with her local fire department. She has always been committed to health care and likes to spend her free time volunteering with activities that she feels help the people in her community.

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