

Breast Cancer Screening



Breast Cancer Screening and the World Trade Center Health Program

Is breast cancer screening available through the World Trade Center Health Program?

The World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program provides screenings and treatment for health conditions, including breast cancer, related to the September 11th terrorist attacks. Breast cancer screening may be available as a part of the health monitoring exam assuming certain requirements are met.

What is breast cancer screening?

Breast cancer screening looks for cancer before you feel symptoms from the disease. A mammogram is a detailed x-ray picture of the breast that may show if cancer is present. Screening allows for earlier treatment, which may slow or even stop the cancer from progressing.

How does the WTC Health Program decide to screen for breast cancer?

The WTC Health Program follows government-screening guidelines¹ set by experts who make recommendations about cancer care and screening.

What breast cancer screening tests can I receive through the WTC Health Program?

If you are between the ages of 40 and 74, you may receive a digital mammogram once every other year. The WTC Health Program may cover earlier or more frequent screening if you have a higher risk for breast cancer, such as having a family history or a previous cancer diagnosis.

What is the risk from breast cancer screening?

You will be exposed to a small amount of radiation during a mammogram, but for most women the benefits of screening outweigh this low risk. Talk to your doctor if you are concerned or have other questions about the procedure.

What happens if I receive a positive result?

Your doctor will explain what this result may mean for future testing and possible treatment. The Program will cover additional screenings if you receive a positive result from a mammogram. The Program will also cover your treatment if the cancer is determined to be related to the September 11th terrorist attacks.

What happens if I receive a negative result?

Most likely, a negative result means that your doctor will not refer you for more testing and/or treatment. Your doctor will explain what this result may mean in more detail. The Program will cover future screening as recommended by the government-screening guidelines.

Can I still be screened through my personal physician who is not a part of the WTC Health Program?

You may choose to have screening mammograms through your private physician. However, The WTC Health Program can only pay for care provided through the Program.

¹ The Department of Health and Human Services, in implementing the Affordable Care Act in Section 2713(a)(5) of the Public Health Service Act, utilizes the 2002 recommendation on breast cancer screening of the USPSTF. Available at <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/uspsbrca2002.htm>.

Learn More. Call 1-888-982-4748 or visit www.cdc.gov/wtc

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