

The Rosemary Williams Mammoday Program

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History



The late Rosemary Williams, Director of the Tumor Registry, founded the Howard University Hospital Mammoday Program in 2003.

The Program was re-named the Rosemary Williams Mammoday Program in honor of Rosemary Williams who expired in June 2007.

History

- The program was initially established to address screening disparities in African American women age 40 and older who did not have access to breast cancer screening services.
- Over the four years that the program has been in existence, it has expanded through partnerships with Nueva Vida and Washington Hospital Center, to provide free screenings to medically underserved Latina women in the Metropolitan Area as well as African Immigrant women through partnerships with community clinics.
- Men Against Breast Cancer and the family and friends of Rosemary Williams have been instrumental in keeping the program in existence.

Eligibility Requirements

- Women must live in the DC Metropolitan Area
- Must be 35 years or older or they must present with a problem
- Uninsured
- Underinsured

How Mammoday Works

- Patients are provided with an application to complete regarding their medical history;
- Nueva Vida provides translators to assist their patients with the application process;
- Translators also accompany patients in the exam room to ensure that physician dialogue is understood by patients;
- Physician performs a clinical breast examination (CBE).

How Mammoday Works

- If the CBE is normal, the patient receives a mammogram.
- If the CBE is abnormal, the patient is rescheduled for a diagnostic mammogram at a later date.
- The patient receive a letter along with her results of the mammogram within one week.
- If additional testing is required, like a diagnostic mammogram or ultrasound, the patient is contacted with an appointment for the exam.

How Mammoday Works

- If funds are available the program also covers biopsies.
- Navigation services are provided to patients with positive findings.
- Nueva Vida navigates their patients with positive findings
- Uninsured patients are assisted with obtaining health coverage.

How Mammoday Works

- Although, Mammoday, only occurs Saturdays, 3-4 times a year, annual screening is available to recurring patients throughout the year.
- Patients with breast problems also participate in the program throughout the year.

The Rosemary Williams Mammoday Program

- To date Mammoday has screened nearly 400 women.
- Approximately, eleven women have been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Future Plans

- Schedule monthly Mammoday;
- Schedule Mammoday for insured women;
- Analyze the data to determine the areas where the majority of the patients reside; and
- Analyze data to determine how many women return for a yearly mammogram.

Challenges

- Scheduling all uninsured women who call during one Mammoday; and
- Trying to obtain health coverage for patients with positive findings.

Acknowledgement

- Mammoday is made possible through donations, as well as the time donated by our physicians at Howard.
- Dr. Wayne Frederick, Dr. Melvin Gaskins and Dr. Robert DeWitty have donated countless hours performing clinical breast examinations of patients.
- In addition, many HU Cancer Center and Hospital employees volunteer on Saturday morning to ensure that the Rosemary Williams Mammoday is a success.