



# **Breast and Cervical Screening Program (BCCSP)**

## **Bridging the Gap to Women's Health**

### **Quarterly Newsletter**

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# **April 2025**



Welcome to the BCCSP newsletter!

In our newsletter, you will find important program updates, training opportunities, contact information, and much more. The WV Division of Women's and Family Health includes WV BCCSP, WISEWOMAN, and Family Planning Programs. The purpose of the West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (BCCSP) is to decrease cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality by focusing on populations who are underserved and who have increased cancer risk due to health inequities. The WISEWOMAN program is dedicated to helping women in WV lower their risk of cardiovascular disease through personalized, evidence-based strategies.

If you have suggestions for upcoming newsletters, please contact a staff member.



## January was Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

In 2025, an estimated 13,820 people in the U.S. will be diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer, and 4,360 will die from the disease. The United States Congress created the Cervical Health Awareness Month, which is observed throughout the U.S. in January. It is estimated that about 11,500 new cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed in the U.S. each year. Fortunately, cervical cancer can be easily prevented through vaccination and early detection.

The US Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends the following for women:

Average risk and ages 21-29: a Pap test every three years

Average risk and ages 30-65: HPV and Pap smear co-testing every 5 years *or* Pap smear every 3 years

HPV is responsible for almost all cases of cervical cancer and can also lead to several other types of cancer in both men and women. HPV Vaccination is recommended to be part of routine vaccinations for children beginning at ages 11-12 and can start as early as 9 years old.

Do you have ideas or suggestions for initiatives to increase cervical cancer screening in women in WV? Please reach out to BCCSP to let us know!

### Self-Collection Kits

The FDA recently approved a vaginal HPV self-collection test. This collection kit is approved for use in a healthcare setting when the patient and clinician determine it is not possible for the clinician to collect the cervical sample. Specific FDA labs and collection devices must be used. The two current approved collection devices are through BD and Roche.

According to studies, the vaginal self-collected specimens and clinician-collected cervical specimens perform equally when tested for HPV. Ideal patients for self-collection include

asymptomatic patients, those that are eligible for primary HPV testing, not HIV positive, no active menstrual bleeding, no history of cervical cancer, no use of vaginal products within the previous two days, and no history of Diethylstilbestrol (DES) exposure. Any positive result on a self-collected specimen will require follow up testing.



**At this time, BCCSP is awaiting recommendations from the national program before testing kits and reimbursement can be offered. Please watch for an information update in 2025.**

For additional information, visit

<https://cervicalroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Self-Collection-Clinician-Communication-Guide.pdf>

## Community Outreach

Is your organization participating in breast and cervical cancer screening activities? If you would like to share information about past or upcoming events, please email information to [billie.j.thomas@wv.gov](mailto:billie.j.thomas@wv.gov). BCCSP would love to hear from you and see any pictures of your organization in action.



BCCSP staff in Summers County for a site visit.  
Trish Fyfe, Jo Thomas, Dr. Jennifer Hancock,  
Birgit Shanholtzer



Dr. Jennifer Hancock presenting at the  
Breast Cancer Health Equity Summit



BCCSP Medical Director Jo Thomas with Kanawha County Commission during Breast Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation

## WV WISEWOMAN



The Well-Integrated Screening and Evaluation for WOMen Across the Nation (WISEWOMAN) program helps West Virginia women ages 35-64 to understand and reduce their risk for heart disease and stroke by promoting lasting heart-healthy lifestyle changes. This includes offering healthy behavior support services (HBSS), which can include Weight Watchers, health coaching, self-monitoring blood pressure and tobacco cessation.

Eligibility criteria include being a WV resident; women ages 35-64; *eligible* for BCCSP; income at or below 250% of the current Federal Poverty Level (FPL), uninsured, or underinsured; and have at least one cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk factor. Participants who are underinsured may have health insurance coverage which does not include HBSS. Screenings include a medical assessment and health coaching (assessment and clarification of goals) which leads to a CVD risk reduction care plan. This can include enrollment in the self-monitoring blood pressure module (SMBP). A patient navigator will guide the participant through their care plan to ensure they are attending and completing the HBSS.

The BCCSP looks forward to incorporating this FREE screening program for the women of West Virginia.

For more information, please contact Trish Fyfe, WISEWOMAN Program Coordinator, at [patricia.a.fyfe@wv.gov](mailto:patricia.a.fyfe@wv.gov).



# Patient Navigation and Reimbursement

Patient navigation within the BCCSP includes helping patients overcome barriers to cancer screening and diagnosis. Some of the barriers include flexible scheduling options, lack of finances, lack of transportation, lack of child care, lack of elderly care, not understanding the importance of screening, language barrier, mistrust of the health care system, and fear of screening or results of screening. **Look for upcoming patient navigation training coming in 2025.**

If your clinic successfully navigates a patient through a screening, they are eligible for a flat \$50 reimbursement from BCCSP per participant per program year. Some women may not be eligible for BCCSP but are eligible to receive patient navigation only services. To be approved for Patient Navigation reimbursement:

- Patients must be eligible for BCCSP (does not have to be previously enrolled)
- Care team must have two points of contact with the patient (in person, telehealth, or phone) to address barriers to successfully navigate participants to a breast and/or cervical cancer screening appointment
- Paid once per year per patient
- Complete required forms (linked below)
- Submit batch sheet for reimbursement

[Patient navigation form](#)

[Client Enrollment form](#)

[Patient Data form](#)

## BCCSP Forms



We at BCCSP understand that the required forms are time consuming and, at times, overwhelming. Our staff have worked to simplify the forms and the process as much as possible. In order for BCCSP to receive funding to pay for services, there are minimum data elements that must be collected and reported. Without all of the information on the forms, the program is not able to report the data, and therefore would not be able to access funding for services.

Our staff is also in the process of creating individual clinic batch sheets that are pre-printed with the exact name and address that is required for processing. Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) are also in the process of being updated. If you have questions or concerns regarding forms or the BCCSP process, please contact Jamie Romeo at [jamie.i.romeo@wv.gov](mailto:jamie.i.romeo@wv.gov).

# Provider Training Dates

Provider training dates are offered on the Third Thursday of each month, from 12pm-2pm and are subject to change. Please see the list of training dates below.

- April 17th, 12pm-2pm
- May 15th, 12pm-2pm
- June 12th, 12pm-2pm

Contact [jamie.l.romeo@wv.gov](mailto:jamie.l.romeo@wv.gov) to register or to obtain more information.

PLEASE VISIT THE WV BCCSP WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://dhhr.wv.gov/bccsp>

## WV BCCSP Staff

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