



Reeves County
Hospital District

Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Early Screenings for Prostate Cancer Save Lives

Delaying preventive medical services can put your health at risk.

PECOS, Texas (Sept. 11, 2020) – Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men, leading to approximately 33,000 deaths in the US each year. Many early deaths can be avoided when prostate cancer is caught in its early stages. That is why screenings make a difference.

In recognition of National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, Reeves County Hospital District is reminding men in our community not to delay important cancer screenings.

“Regular check-ups with your healthcare provider are key to ensuring you get the screenings that could save your life,” said Dr. Steven Serrano, Family Practice with OB physician, at the Pecos Valley Rural Health Clinic, a service of Reeves County Hospital District. “Men are less likely to meet regularly with their providers, which means they are less likely to get the screenings and care they need.”

According to national statistics, men seek primary healthcare services much less frequently than women. Compounding this, Dr. Serrano added that many people have chosen to delay routine healthcare services due to fear of COVID-19. However, doing so can put you at risk.

Yearly wellness exams are a great opportunity to find out about your risk of certain health conditions. Your healthcare provider can recommend common screenings, including screenings for prostate cancer.

The risk of developing prostate cancer generally increases with age. It is most commonly found in men over age 65, although many cases have been diagnosed in men during screenings at the age of 50. Those who have a family history of the disease should begin screenings at the age of 45 or earlier, depending on a physician’s recommendation.

Prostate cancer is a malignant tumor composed of cells from the prostate gland. Slow-growing in nature, the tumor often produces few or no symptoms until it has grown to an advanced stage. Often, it is not detected until it has expanded to surrounding tissues, at which point it becomes increasingly difficult to treat.



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Although the exact cause of prostate cancer is not known, there are several identified risk factors, including advanced age, genetics, and hormonal influences.

The cancer is also more common in African-American men than those of any other race. Statistics also show that Asian-American and Hispanic men are less likely to develop prostate cancer than Caucasian men. Regardless, men with a family history of the disease or who are over age 50 are encouraged to talk to their primary care providers about scheduling regular screenings.

Among the most common screenings for prostate cancer a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test. Those with elevated PSA levels are at an increased risk of having prostate cancer. Another method is through a digital rectal exam, during which the doctor can feel for any bumps or hard places on the prostate.

A PSA test can be performed in the local community through RCHD. Your healthcare provider may order the test during a routine checkup.

“Scheduling your yearly wellness exam is a great way to ensure you are in good health and caught up on important screenings,” Dr. Serrano said. “It’s never good to delay the healthcare services you need. Taking care of your health is more important than ever.”

To learn more about local healthcare services or to schedule an appointment at the Pecos Valley Rural Health Clinic, please call 432-447-056.

About Reeves County Hospital District

Reeves County Hospital District (RCHD) provides healthcare services for people in Reeves County and neighboring communities in West Texas. Founded in 1954, RCHD, a Level IV Trauma Center, offers a wide variety of medical services, including emergency care, diagnostic radiology, physical therapy, general surgery, a clinical laboratory and more. RCHD also operates American Home Health and Hospice and the Pecos Valley Rural Health Clinic, which offers family care, immunizations, and other medical services. For more information, please visit www.reevescountyhospital.com.

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