



Press Release
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Breast Cancer Screening Convenient for Reeves County Residents

Reeves County Hospital District mammography services year-round.

PECOS, Texas (Oct 9, 2023) – In Texas, approximately 19,921 women are expected to be diagnosed with breast cancer this year. Nearly 3,400 women in the state are expected to die because of the disease. According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, an estimated two-thirds of women age 40 years and over had a mammogram within the last two years. That means one-third of Texas women over the age of 40 are past-due.

“Just as with many types of cancer, early detection continues to be the best line of defense,” said Shellece Lowe, FNP, Reeves Regional Rural Health Clinic, a service of Reeves Regional Health (RRH). “We are extremely lucky to have access to advanced 3D mammography services available here in Pecos year-round.”

Unlike many rural healthcare facilities in Texas, Reeves Regional Health has a permanent 3D digital mammography scanner available year-round. Just like the equipment used at larger hospitals in urban communities, the digital 3D mammography scanner remains the most practical and accurate screening tool available for the early detection of breast cancer.

“Having a permanent 3D mammogram scanner means that it is always available for our community,” Lowe adds. “Many rural communities have to rely on a mobile unit that comes around a few times a year, and those appointments often book quickly. The benefit for Reeves County residents is that you do not have to wait long to schedule an appointment.

“There are no changes in preparation for the exam. The only difference is the ability to provide top-notch technology and care to our patients, Lowe noted.

Breast cancer is a malignant tumor that develops from breast tissue and, like many cancers, can quickly spread to other organs in the body if not detected early.

Survival rates for those with early Stage 1 breast cancer are 99 percent at five years. If detected later, at Stage 3, the five-year survival rate drops to 57 percent.

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“The 3D mammography technology we have here at Reeves Regional Health is a lot different than even just a decade ago,” Lowe explains. “With our 3D digital mammography scanner, we can complete the screening process in a shorter time with higher-quality images and detection of any abnormalities of up to 40%. It’s remarkable when compared to old analog film-based scanners of the past.”

Unlike older mammography scans, images from 3D digital mammograms are processed using advanced computer imaging technology. The result is instant, higher resolution images of the breast compared to older film-based imaging.

“Mammograms are not as painful today thanks to advancements in technology,” Lowe adds. “Although sensitivity can vary among patients, the minor discomfort of screening is insignificant compared to the burden cancer can put on one’s body.”

The American Cancer Society recommends women between the ages of 40 and 44 should start screening with a mammogram every year. Women ages 45 to 54 should get a mammogram annually. Women 55 and older can switch to a mammogram every other year or choose to maintain an annual screening.

As always, Lowe recommends all women should consult with their primary medical provider on the best screening schedule based on their health and family cancer history.

If you are a patient at the Reeves Regional Rural Health Clinic the patient must first schedule an appointment with their healthcare provider for a breast exam. After the breast exam an order will be given to you so you can then schedule your mammogram. Please call the Reeves Regional Rural Health Clinic at 432-447-0565 to schedule your breast exam.

About Reeves Regional Health

Reeves Regional Health (RRH), formally known as Reeves County Hospital District, provides healthcare services for Reeves County and neighboring West Texas communities. Founded in 1954, RRH, a Level IV Trauma Center, offers various medical services, including emergency care, diagnostic imaging, physical therapy, general surgery, a clinical laboratory, and more. RRH also operates Reeves Regional Home Health and Hospice and Reeves Regional Rural Health Clinic. In November 2022, RRH began serving patients from a new \$115 million, 140,000-square-foot campus. For more information, please visit www.reevesregional.com.

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