



SMITHVILLE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Smithville Hospital Authority offers Low-Cost Screenings during Prostate Cancer Awareness Week

Prostate cancer is the second most common form of cancer among men in the United States. This year alone, it is estimated that more than 220,000 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed and that nearly 29,000 men will die from this disease. Since the advent of Prostate Cancer Awareness Week (PCAW) in 1989, the prostate cancer survival rate has increased to more than 90 percent.

During the month of September, Smithville Regional Hospital and Bastrop Medical Center are offering low-cost Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) blood screenings for men. This screening, which takes approximately 10 minutes of your time, is being offered for \$20 and men are encouraged to stop by the lab at SRH or BMC.

“Men should make it a priority to get screened,” said Sharon Nokes, SRH laboratory manager. “With more awareness, early detection and treatment, we hope to achieve survival rates of 100 percent.”

Prostate cancer is second only to skin cancer as the most common type of cancer among American men. Among African- American men, the chance of developing prostate cancer during their lifetime is one in eight. Among men who have a family history of prostate cancer, chances of contracting the disease increases by 50 percent.

Doctors say the best way to beat prostate cancer is by detecting it at its earliest stage. Although screening guidelines vary, they recommend men over the age of 45 or at-risk men over age 40 should be screened annually.

“There is no excuse for not being tested,” said Nokes.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
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