Beebe Healthcare’s Breast Health Program Improves Care for Patients

Caring for more than 150 breast patients each year, Beebe Healthcare’s Breast Health Program is the first program in Delaware to be accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), a program administered by the American College of Surgeons. Due to the increase of breast cancer cases observed during the recent reaccreditation, Beebe’s Breast Program is adding two new services.

A weekly Breast Cancer Tumor Conference, dedicated to the discussion of all breast cases, will be held to support multidisciplinary healthcare for all new breast cases. The Breast Cancer Tumor Conference is NAPBC mandated and takes place from noon to 12:30 p.m., immediately followed by the general Tumor Conference held each Thursday from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

In addition, we have launched a Breast Ultrasound-guided Biopsy Clinic. The clinic allows Beebe radiologists and mid-level team members to meet with patients for clinical review and education on abnormal ultrasound findings, preparing them for the biopsy procedure. Patients are seen at the clinic again after the biopsy to discuss results. If further intervention or treatment is needed, the clinic’s team works with the Breast Health Navigator to ensure follow-up for patients.

This time-saving program reduces wait times for women and eases their anxiety. It also allows practitioners to get faster answers about mammography and ultrasound results. In addition, the clinic paves the way for Beebe to establish a future high-risk breast clinic, which will provide further innovations in the care of women.

For more information on the Breast Health Program, call (302) 645-3630.
Key elements of the process include:
- A customized approach to services, tailored for each patient and physician practice
- Comprehensive continuity and outstanding quality of care that eliminate fragmentation and decrease times for further testing and treatment
- Radiologists with expertise in breast imaging
- A radiological technologist with special training
- Case management and coordination of diagnostics and, when needed, breast cancer treatment
- Individualized case management with each patient through initial screening and beyond abnormal diagnoses
- Ease of referral process, coordination of appointments, assisting with the logistics of the diagnostic work-up, biopsies, etc.
- Connection of each patient with resources and, when necessary, preparation of patients for the cancer journey
- Patient education and information
- Direct and consistent communication to keep physicians informed throughout the entire process

Utilizing the Breast Health Program’s services will allow physicians and their staff to streamline the process for educating, scheduling diagnostic work-up appointments, and making referrals.

Patients will benefit from:
- Personal care and attention
- Quick turnaround on biopsy reports
- Prompt response for first appointments
- Improved access to care

Screening, evaluation, and diagnosis
- On-site mammography services with interpretation by radiologists experienced in breast-imaging techniques
- Evaluation of breast lumps or masses with clinical breast examination through techniques such as stereotactic biopsy and ultrasound-guided biopsy
- Diagnosis by a pathologist experienced in breast disease

Treatment of benign breast disease
- Referrals for consultation and follow-up for non-cancerous breast problems

Patient education and support
- Breast self-examination and breast-care education
- Support, discussion, and education regarding diagnostic procedures
- Support and discussion of hormone replacement therapy and breast health
- Referral to genetic counseling

Referral criteria
- A new or changed breast lump or abnormality felt by the referring physician or by the patient; if found by patient, please confirm the breast lump before referral to the Breast Health Program
- Lump or mass found on the screening or diagnostic mammogram and needing evaluation
- A breast cyst suspected by either clinical breast exam or found by mammogram/ultrasound and needing either evaluation or aspiration
- Any skin changes in the breast or nipple (erythema, retraction, puckering, dimpling) in a non-lactating woman
- Stereotactic and core biopsies
- Peri-menopausal or post-menopausal hormone replacement therapy questions related to the breast
- Strong risks for breast cancer based on family history (Such cases are immediately referred to the genetic counselor.)
- Spontaneous unilateral nipple discharge
- Bilateral nipple discharge (The referring provider should complete the initial work-up and forward the details to the clinic for review. If the review determines an appointment is appropriate, our staff will schedule the patient.)
- Prior history that includes any breast carcinoma in situ or atypical hyperplasia for regular evaluation and treatment-option discussion

Multidisciplinary team of breast-care experts
Studies show that patients experience better outcomes when treated by a team of multidisciplinary experts—specialists from different areas who work together to provide comprehensive treatment. Dedicated breast-care experts, state-of-the-art technology, and concerned staff assure that your patients receive the best care in an atmosphere that places them at ease.

Our program is proud to be home to the area’s most experienced specialists, including:
- Breast Health Nurse Navigator
- Radiologists
- Breast Surgeons
- Plastic Surgeons
- Nurse Practitioners who specialize in high-risk patients
- Genetic Counselors