

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

January is National Cervical Cancer Awareness Month which helps to raise awareness about cervical health and promote information on cervical cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

- Approximately 13,000 new cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed each year in the United States
- Over 4,000 women die from cervical cancer each year in the U.S.
- Almost 90 women are diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer each year in New Mexico
- Almost 30 women die from cervical cancer each year in New Mexico
- Over 90% of cervical cancers are likely caused by the HPV virus
- HPV vaccination can prevent over 90% of cancers caused by HPV

In 2025, the New Mexico BCCP covered the cost of cervical cancer screening for 2,279 women. This resulted in the diagnosis of 2 invasive cervical cancers and 41 cases of high-grade cervical dysplasia. Additionally, last year almost 50 women newly diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer received case management services through BCCP, and among them, 11 were determined to be eligible for BCC Medicaid. Another 45 women were recertified for BCC Medicaid for the year. BCC Medicaid covers the cost of treatment for cervical or breast cancer.

None of this would have been possible without BCC Program partners and providers like you! Your commitment to improving cervical cancer screening rates and providing care to the most vulnerable New Mexicans in our state has saved lives.

HPV Self-Collection News

On January 5, 2026, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced updated cervical cancer screening guidelines that include a recommendation offering women ages 30 to 65 years and at average risk the option to self-collect samples for high hrHPV testing. Self-collection for hrHPV screening was approved by the FDA on May 17, 2024, and it stipulates that self-collection is performed in a doctor's office or lab.

Currently there are only two tests included in the FDA approvals and thus covered by BCCP: Onclarity HPV, made by Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD), and cobas HPV, made by Roche Molecular Systems. For questions about hrHPV self-collection please reach out to our Clinical Services Manager at Erin.gildersleeve@doh.nm.gov

Community Clinical Linkage Partners

The BCC Program supports community clinical linkage projects that connect low-income women to healthcare providers for breast or cervical cancer screenings.

We are thrilled to have added two new clinical linkage providers this past quarter: **Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains** in Las Cruces and **Simply Salud** in Albuquerque. These sites will take community referrals from BCC Program Coordinators to increase screening rates for vulnerable populations.

BCC Program CHW Virtual Training Now available in Spanish

Learners will gain insight into effective screening methods, risk factors, and the role of CHWs in promoting preventive health measures. The course is approved for 3.0 continuing education units.



More information can be found at: www.nmhealth.org/about/phd/pchb/bcc/

WELCOME NEW BCCP PROVIDERS!

- Master Imaging
- Tres Rios Pathology
- Four Corners Radiology
- Changing Woman Initiative



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“Women belong in all places where decisions are being made.”
-Ruth Bader Ginsburg

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Vinia Tapia is the Nurse Coordinator for the Southwest region of the state. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need additional support.

Email: vinia.tapia@doh.nm.gov

BCCP Office Hours

BCCP Managers will be available the 2nd Thursday of every month from 12:30-1:15 pm via TEAMS to hear from you! Have a question about billing, CPT codes, clinical management, BCC Medicaid, mobile mammography, CHW training? Log on. More information will be shared via email.