Five Things to Know about Gynecologic Cancer

September is Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month

Green Bay – More than 100,000 women will be diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer this year, according to the Foundation for Woman’s Cancer. That is one woman diagnosed every five minutes.

HSHS St. Vincent Hospital, HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center and Prevea Health are sharing “five things to know” during September’s Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month:

1. Gynecologic cancers include uterine/endometrial, cervical, ovarian, fallopian tube, vaginal and vulvar cancers as well as gestational trophoblastic disease. It encompasses all cancers of the female reproductive tract, from the skin on the outside to the organs on the inside.

2. Endometrial cancer is the most common gynecologic cancer and is one of the only cancers in the United States on the rise. According to the American Cancer Society, more than 61,800 women will be diagnosed this year, up 10,000 from just five years ago. The major risk factors for this cancer are obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure.

3. While we can screen for cervical cancer with the Pap smear and HPV test, we can also prevent cervical cancer and some other cancers before they start with the HPV vaccine. The vaccine can be given to everyone (boys and girls, men and women) up to age 45 to reduce the chance of developing HPV-related cancers.

4. Ovarian cancer remains the most fatal gynecologic cancer. There is no effective screening test yet, so it’s important to know the symptoms. If you have bloating, feel full without eating too much, changes in bowel or bladder habits or pain in the lower abdomen that persists daily for two to four weeks without improvement, you should see your doctor.

5. Any bleeding after menopause is not normal. Periods do not restart. If it happens, you should make an appointment to see your doctor.
Dr. Erin E. Stevens, a Prevea Health gynecologic oncologist, cares for women affected by gynecologic cancer at HSHS St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay. For more information about gynecologic cancer, click [here](#).

**About HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center**

HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center have been delivering quality health care to Green Bay and its surrounding communities since 1888. With HSHS St. Vincent being the largest tertiary care hospital and HSHS St. Mary’s location on Green Bay’s west side, patients from Northeastern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan benefit from a comprehensive range of services that include cancer care, women’s services, emergency and trauma care, preventive care across the lifespan, digestive health, orthopedic, cardiac care, neurosciences, rehabilitation and pediatrics. Affiliates of Hospital Sisters Health System, the hospitals primary purpose is to continue Christ’s healing love through the delivery of competent and compassionate health care in an environment sensitive to the needs of all people. Both hospitals are accredited by the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

**About Hospital Sisters Health System**

Hospital Sisters Health System’s (HSHS) mission is to reveal and embody Christ’s healing love for all people through our high quality, Franciscan health care ministry. HSHS provides state-of-the-art health care to our patients and is dedicated to serving all people, especially the most vulnerable, at each of our 15 Local Systems and physician practices in Illinois (Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Greenville, Highland, Litchfield, O’Fallon, Shelbyville and Springfield) and Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Oconto Falls, Sheboygan, and two in Green Bay). HSHS is sponsored by Hospital Sisters Ministries. For more information about HSHS, visit [www.hshs.org](http://www.hshs.org). For more information about Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, visit [www.hospitalsisters.org](http://www.hospitalsisters.org).

**About Prevea Health**

Founded in Green Bay, Wis. in 1996, Prevea Health is a health care organization that provides high-quality, primary and specialty health care in 80+ locations across northern, eastern and western Wisconsin in clinic and hospital settings. It is partnered with six Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) hospitals across Wisconsin to provide patients a system of highly-coordinated care, close to home: HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center in Green Bay; HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital in Sheboygan; HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital in Oconto Falls; HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire; and HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital in Chippewa Falls. For more information, visit [www.prevea.com](http://www.prevea.com).

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