



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MAYOR INTRODUCES ORDINANCE TO INCREASE ACCESS TO BREAST CANCER CARE,  
SCREENINGS AND DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES FOR WOMEN ACROSS THE CITY**

CHICAGO - Mayor Emanuel introduced an ordinance to the City Council today that will increase access to breast cancer screenings, diagnostic services and continuity of care for women utilizing the City's primary care services across Chicago.

"Ensuring that women across the city have access to preventative screenings and continuity of care is just one critical step in creating an environment where Chicagoans can improve and maintain their health," said Mayor Emanuel.

This ordinance will allow CDPH to enter into separate contracts for each of its five primary care facilities with up to five hospitals, expanding the pool of hospitals that would be able to provide both breast and cervical cancer readings and follow up care, if needed, for patients. CDPH patients will receive improved continuity of care: once a screening is completed at a CDPH clinic, the same provider will conduct the reading and any necessary follow-up; currently, readings and necessary follow-up could be completed by different providers. These changes allow more prompt follow-up, making it easier to schedule and meet appointments, and in some cases reducing travel time for patients.

Increasing access to care and addressing cancer disparities are one of the top priorities outlined in *Healthy Chicago*, the City's public health agenda. The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) currently provides approximately 5,000 mammograms each year across five City-owned primary care clinics.

"We're making changes to our system to increase access to care. This ordinance allows us to link patients with abnormal mammogram results to follow up services more effectively. Addressing inadequate access to quality treatment once breast cancer is diagnosed is one of the strategies



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identified that will help to reduce breast cancer disparities,” said Dr. Bechara Choucair, Commissioner for the Chicago Department of Public Health.

There are close to 2 million women living with breast cancer today. Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women. CDPH provides mammograms at no cost to Chicago residents. All sites are fully accredited by the American College of Radiology (ACR) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). A list of locations that provide [mammogram screenings](#) is available at [www.CityofChicago.org/Health](http://www.CityofChicago.org/Health).

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