



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Press Release

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month: 70% of Women Are Not Diagnosed Until Stage 3

16,210 deaths expected in 2005; early detection begins with a pelvic exam

DALLAS – September is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and according to the American Cancer Society (ACS), ovarian cancer ranks fourth as a cause of cancer deaths among women because early detection of the disease is difficult. The death rate from ovarian cancer has not changed in 50 years and the ACS estimate that there will be 22,220 new cases and 16,210 deaths in 2005. Early detection of ovarian cancer begins with an annual pelvic exam.

Texas has the highest rate of uninsured residents in the nation and the largest proportion is women. Unlike the early stages of breast cancer, women are not able to detect the symptoms of ovarian cancer. A pelvic examination is necessary for discovery of the early symptoms of ovarian cancer. Unfortunately, almost 70 percent of women with common ovarian cancer are not diagnosed until the disease has spread into the upper abdomen or beyond. The 5-year survival rate for these women is only 15 to 20 percent.

Planned Parenthood of North Texas (PPNT) provides low-cost, accessible medical services to anyone regardless of health insurance status or income in 28 clinics across the 57 county region. A pelvic examination is part of every well woman exam PPNT provides its patients.

For more information on ovarian cancer, please visit The American Cancer Society website at WWW.ACS.ORG.

For 70 years, PPNT has provided compassionate medical care in North Texas. In 2004, PPNT clinics served more than 80,000 patients in its 28 clinics. PPNT also provides health education outreach to 12,000 individuals a year.

*“Celebrating 70 years of providing compassionate health care in North Texas communities.”
(1935-2005)*

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