

Castro County



Access to Cancer Care For Low-Income and Uninsured Patients

We hope this information is helpful if you are looking for cancer treatment or cancer screening, like a mammogram, Pap test, or prostate exam, and do not have insurance or enough money to pay for medical care.

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I want to be checked for cancer. Where do I go?

If you want to be checked for cancer and:

- You live in Castro County
- You make a low income
- You do not have health insurance
- You cannot get Medicare or Medicaid

You may be able to get help through one of the programs listed below. Each one may have different rules about how you qualify for services, so call the number listed for more information.

★ **Castro County Indigent Health Care Program**

If you live in Castro County you may be able to get help through the **Castro County Indigent Health Care Program**. You will need to fill out a form and show certain documents, such as a water bill, your mortgage or rent papers, or your driver's license to prove that you live in Castro County.

You do not have to be a U.S. citizen to get help. But if you have any documents (like visas) from Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS), you must show these. You will also need to tell how many family members live in your house. You will have to show how much money you make, so you also may need to show a paycheck stub.

For more information, call the number or go by the office listed below:

Medical Center of Dimmitt 310 W. Halsell Dimmitt, TX 79027 (806) 647-8721

★ Federally Qualified Health Centers

If you cannot get help from the Indigent Health Care Program, you may be able to see a doctor at a primary care clinic that will let you pay on a “**sliding scale.**” This means that the amount of money you pay is based on how many family members live in your house and how much money you make. For example, if you have a big family and make just a little money, you would pay less for medical care. If you have a smaller family or make a little more money, you would pay a little more.

For more information and to find the nearest clinic, call the numbers below:

Regence Health Network-Hereford 110 N. 25 Mile Ave., Ste. A Hereford, TX 79045 (806) 293-8561	Regence Health Network-Muleshoe 208 W. 2 nd St. Muleshoe, TX 79347 (806) 293-8561
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For U. S. Military Veterans

★ If you are a **veteran**, you may be able to be seen at a **Veterans Affairs (VA) clinic**. To find out more about veteran’s benefits, go to <http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/>. For more information, contact the Department of Veterans Affairs at the number below:

Veterans Affairs
Health care questions call 1-877-222-8387

You may also call or visit one of the following VA facilities in or near **Castro County**:

Thomas E. Creek VA Medical Center

6010 Amarillo Blvd., West

Amarillo, TX 79106

(806) 355-9703

Lubbock Clinic

6104 Ave. Q South Dr.

Lubbock, TX 79412

(806) 472-3400

For Women

★ Women who want to get checked for **cervical cancer or breast cancer** may be able to get help through a special program called **Breast and Cervical Cancer Services (BCCS)**.

- To have a PAP test for cervical cancer, you must be 18 to 64 years old.
- To have a mammogram (breast cancer test), you must be 50 to 64 years old.
- You will need to show how much money you make, so you may be asked to show a paycheck stub.

Call one of the clinics below to see about making an appointment:

Coalition of Health Services 301 S. Polk St. Amarillo, TX 79101 (806) 337-1700	South Plains Community Action Association 411 Austin St Levelland, TX 79336 (806) 894-6104
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Appointments

When you go for your appointment, be sure to bring any medical records you have. This information will help the doctor understand your needs better. For example, bring:

- Results of past medical or lab tests
- Records of any treatments you have had
- A list of any medicines you are taking right now

I have cancer. Where do I go?

If you have been told that you need treatment for cancer and:

- You live in Castro County
- You make a low income
- You do not have health insurance
- You cannot get Medicare or Medicaid

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- Results of past medical or lab tests
- Records of any treatments you have had
- A list of any medicines you are taking right now

I had cancer and need a check-up. Where do I go?

If you have had cancer in the past and need to see a doctor for a check-up and:

- You live in Castro County
- You make a low income
- You do not have health insurance
- You cannot get Medicare or Medicaid

You may be able to get help through one of the programs listed below. Each one may have different rules about how you qualify for services, so call the number listed for more information.

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How do I know if I can get help for cancer care?

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What if I still cannot get help for cancer care?

If you cannot get help from the county program or a Federally Qualified Health Center, you may want to call one of the hospitals below.

★ The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has named four cancer centers in Texas as leaders in cancer research. Two centers are in Houston, one is in Dallas and one is in San Antonio. These centers focus on finding new treatments for cancer through clinical trial testing. To find out more, visit the Web sites or call the numbers below:

Cancer Therapy & Research Center at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio

1-800-340-2872

<http://www.uthscsa.edu/patient.shtml>

The Dan L. Duncan Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine

(713) 798-1354

<http://www.bcm.edu/cancercenter/>

Harold C. Simmons Cancer Center at UT Southwestern Medical Center

(214) 645-HOPE (4673)

(800) 460-HOPE (4673)

<http://www.simmonscancercenter.org/index.html>

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

1-877-MDA-6789 (1-877-632-6789)

http://www.mdanderson.org/contact_us/

★ The following hospitals in your area may also treat low-income or uninsured patients. You would need to contact each hospital to find out if you can make an appointment to be seen:

Plains Memorial Hospital

(806) 647-2191

www.plainsmemorial.com

Where can I learn more about cancer care?

There are many groups that help cancer patients. These groups may offer financial assistance, support services or free information about cancer. You can get a list of these groups from the **National Cancer Institute** by clicking on or typing in the following link:

<https://cissecure.nci.nih.gov/factsheet/FactsheetSearch.aspx?FSType=8.1>

- ★ You may also call the **National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service** at **1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237)**.
- ★ The **American Cancer Society (ACS)** also has support groups and information about cancer. You may call **1-800-227-2345** or go to the Web site: <http://www.cancer.org/docroot/home/index.asp>.
- ★ The **Lance Armstrong Foundation (LAF)** has information about financial assistance and support groups. Call **1-866-235-7205** or visit the Web site: <http://www.livestrong.org>
- ★ **Susan G. Komen for the Cure** is a breast cancer helpline. Call 1-800-462-9273 (1-800-I'M AWARE®) or visit the Web site: <http://www.komen.org>

- ★ Visit the **Texas Cancer Information (texascancer.info)** Web site at <http://www.texascancer.info/> for lists of doctors, hospitals, breast and colon cancer screening services, home health agencies, and hospices. You can find support, counseling, education and other help such as transportation, housing and medical equipment by clicking on **Local/Community Resources**.



This document can be found in PDF format on the Texas Cancer Information Web site at http://www.texascancer.info/access/access_castro.pdf.

If you have any information regarding changes to any procedures or locations, please e-mail Texas Cancer Information at info@texascancer.info. Texas Cancer Information is funded by the [Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas](#) and [The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center](#). Inclusion in this document is not intended as an endorsement of any individual, provider, service or Web site.