

Matagorda 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 Matagorda 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.

★ **Matagorda County Indigent Health Care Program**

If you live in Matagorda County you may be able to get help through the **Matagorda 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 Matagorda 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:

Matagorda Regional Hospital District
1100 Ave G
Bay City, TX 77414
(979) 244- 8136 or (979) 245- 8421

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 **Matagorda County**:

Michael E DeBakey VA Medical Center
2002 Holcombe Blvd
Houston, TX 77030
(713) 791- 1414

Victoria Clinic
1502 E Airline Dr. Ste 40
Victoria, TX 77901
(361) 582- 7700

For Women

★ Women who want to have a **mammogram** (breast cancer test) may be able to get help through the **Matagorda Episcopal Hospital Outreach Program – Bay City Site**. This clinic works 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.

- Do not have to be insured to be seen, but does accept Medicaid, Medicare and Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Must show proof of income, copy of insurance card Medicare, Medicaid, Blue Cross Blue Shield, proof of address, immunization record if applicable, all medications currently taking

Call the clinic below for more information or to make an appointment:

Matagorda Episcopal Hospital Outreach Program – Bay City Site
 101 Ave F North
 Bay City, Texas 77414
 (979) 245- 2008

★ Women’s Health Program

Women's Health Program provides uninsured women with gynecological exams, related health screenings and birth control.

- Must be 18-44 who
- Have no health insurance
- Can receive TANF, Food Stamps, WIC or Children's Medicaid
- Not eligible if you receive Medicaid, CHIP or Medicare part A or B
- You must meet income guidelines.

You must show the following:

- Proof of income
- Valid identification
- Proof of Citizenship

An application is required. Call the number below to request that one be mailed to you or pick up at local office:

Texas Health and Human Services Commission HHSC
 2010 Ave K
 Bay City, TX 77414
 (979) 244-1662

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

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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 three cancer centers in Texas as leaders in cancer research. Two of those centers are in Houston. 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/>

The University of Texas M. D. 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:

Matagorda General Hospital

(979) 245- 6383

<http://www.matagordageneral.org>

Palacios Community Medical Center

(361) 972- 2511

<http://www.palacioscommunitymedcenter.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_matagorda.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.