

# BREAST CANCER EXCELLENCE IN SURVIVAL AND TREATMENT (BEST) ACT: PUBLIC LAW 99-433

Fact Sheet | September 2015

The Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force believes every woman should have access to comprehensive and coordinated breast care with the highest quality early detection screening tools and treatment options available to her. The reality is that all women do NOT have equal access to high quality breast care. This is why, the Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force had the Best Act (House Bill 3673) introduced by State Rep Smiddy this year.

We are excited to announce that the BEST act was signed into law on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 and became Public Law 99-433.

## **Breast Cancer Excellence in Survival and Treatment (BEST) Act**

- Requires every insurer and Illinois Medicaid to cover a screening MRI, when deemed medically necessary and American Cancer Society's guidelines for appropriate use for high risk women are met, at no cost to the patient.
- Requires all networks of care, within Illinois Medicaid, to include access to at least one Breast Imaging Center of Excellence as certified by the American College of Radiology.
- Establishes a breast cancer treatment quality improvement program, in which participating Illinois Medicaid providers will receive an incentive for providing their treatment data to the quality treatment program.
- Requires the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (DHFS) to convene an expert panel - including representatives from hospitals, breast treatment centers, breast cancer quality organizations, breast surgeons, oncologists and primary care providers - to establish quality standards for breast cancer treatment.
- Requires the DHFS to expand the current patient navigation pilot program to include one site in western Illinois, one site in southern Illinois, one in central Illinois and four sites within Metropolitan Chicago.
- Requires the DHFS to include access for patients diagnosed with cancer to at least one Academic Commission on Cancer accredited cancer program as in-network covered benefit for all Illinois Medicaid networks of care.
- Requires the DHFS to ensure, under Illinois Medicaid, the provider and hospital reimbursement for post-mastectomy care benefits, currently required by law, are no lower than the Medicare reimbursement rates.
- Requires that the DHFS administer a grant program, in which grants will be awarded to increase the access to high quality breast cancer screening and diagnostics for low-income and Medicaid covered women in rural and medically underserved areas.

