

Women First: Breast Health for Women with Developmental Disabilities

<http://wind.uwyo.edu/breasthealth/>



Tips for Care Providers

- Consider the whole woman. Just as every other woman needs preventative health care services such as screening for hypertension, diabetes, and breast cancer, women with disabilities need the exact same care.
- Accessibility has to be addressed both environmentally and behaviorally. Health care providers should look at the physical features of their facilities, as well as how people interact with and treat women with disabilities.
- Not only is it important to respect the feelings, opinions, and decisions expressed by women with disabilities, it is also critical to a woman's health that she be encouraged to ask questions and express her own opinions.
- Always use people first language. This means to put the person first, disability second. (Ex. "person with a disability" *not* "disabled person")
- Seek training and instruction in providing adaptive services in basic health care including breast examinations, mammograms, pelvic exams, and overall health screening techniques.
- Communication is critically important in providing good health care. When necessary, adapt how communication occurs. This may involve using interpreters, assistive technology, or restructuring the way questions are asked.
- Ask the person with a disability how they prefer to receive assistance and services. Every person is different, and although it is beneficial to be informed about disabilities in general, each person's needs are unique.
- People with developmental disabilities are at a higher risk for abuse and violence than other individuals. Many times these crimes are committed by someone in the person's life. Health care providers may want to privately screen for possible abuse.



Additional Resources

Breast Health for Women with Disabilities: Provides access to information on breast health for women with disabilities, especially developmental disabilities.

<http://wind.uwyo.edu/breasthealth/>

Wyoming Institute for Disabilities: Provides community outreach, training, education, and information dissemination services in the area of developmental disabilities.

Phone: 307-766-2761

Web Site: <http://wind.uwyo.edu/>

WIND Resource Library: Houses an extensive collection on developmental disabilities including many resources on breast health and accessible health care.

Phone: 307-766-2935

Web Site: <http://wind.uwyo.edu/library/>

Women's Health Source: Provides a variety of services to assist women in receiving breast care, mammograms, breast cancer services and treatment.

Phone: 800-264-1296

Wyoming Breast Cancer Resource Directory: The web site contains a comprehensive directory of programs in Wyoming which provide breast cancer related services.

Web Site: <http://wind.uwyo.edu/pathways/breastcancer/>