



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Minister of Health Lauds the National Health Fund for Extending its Individual Benefits Portfolio

Minister of Health, Dr. Fenton Ferguson congratulated the National Health Fund for extending its individual benefits portfolio to include a subsidy of JA\$4,800 for the Breast Cancer Receptor Studies Test for persons diagnosed with breast cancer.

Speaking at the launch of the NHF Breast Cancer Receptor Studies Benefit this morning held at the Knutsford Court Hotel in Kingston, Minister Ferguson stated that often times Government institutions are criticized for not doing a good job, but today the National Health Fund has demonstrated its commitment to providing health benefits to thousands of Jamaicans.

“Today is an important moment for me and marks a milestone in our efforts to put measures in place to improve the health of Jamaicans as we seek to better manage and try to prevent the development of cancers. The National Health Fund, by designed has contributed significantly to the health of our people for over a decade now and today we celebrate another remarkable achievement. I want to recommend that the institution focus some attention on research as well as health promotion and prevention going forward in the coming years,” the Minister stated.

The National Health Fund Breast Cancer Receptor Studies Benefit will assist in determining the appropriate treatment of breast cancer. The test will be conducted by the University Hospital of the West Indies Pathology Laboratory, the only local laboratory offering this type of test. Minister Ferguson applauded the University on the quality of work that is being done locally.

The Minister said cancer is among the non-communicable diseases that are of great concern for the Ministry of Health and has been translated into one of the ‘big ideas’ project, as cancer has a major impact on the health and wellbeing of the population in Jamaica.

“The appropriateness of this occasion is not lost on me as we are in the middle of breast cancer awareness month and the intervention that we are here to launch specifically has to do with the treatment of breast cancer. Breast cancer is one of the most prevalent types of cancers among women in Jamaica and families often time end up pauperized after having to deal with the treatment”, the Minister stated.

Dr. Fenton Ferguson in closing urged women between ages 35 and 39 to do a baseline mammogram and annual exams from age 40 as well as to do self tests, as early intervention is always best as it increase the chances of survival and recovery.

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