- Public welfare

QC provides free assessment, treatment for breast cancer

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The Quezon City government on Friday urged residents to avail themselves of its programs to detect and treat breast cancer.



Women residents aged 50 years and above can avail themselves of free clinical breast examinations and mammograms in all 66 health centers across the city.

As of this month, the local government said it has screened 56,393 women for breast mass. Twentythree were referred to East Avenue Medical Center (EAMC), while 35 were referred to the Quezon City General Hospital for further assessment and laboratory tests.

"We are aware that this kind of procedure can be quite costly, which is why it's understandable that residents may hesitate to get a checkup," Mayor Joy Belmonte said.

"That's why we are offering this service for free and making it accessible to all QCitizens, especially for women," Belmonte added.

Those who test positive for lumps will be assisted at the EAMC and will be supported by the local government in receiving free treatment, including chemotherapy, radiation therapy or surgery, according to the city government.

Patients will also receive assistance in securing a person with disability identification card, as well as possible livelihood assistance through the city's Public Employment Service Office.

As part of the city's programs in observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the local government provided free breast cancer screening with mammograms to city hall employees last Friday.

"Through our partnership with AIA Hope for the Breast, QCitizens can now access free screenings and comprehensive support. For those diagnosed with breast cancer, AIA will cover treatment until full recovery. There's no need to fear. Early screening ensures that we take control of our health and our future," Belmonte said.

"For women aged 35 to 60, especially those with a family history of breast cancer, regular breast screenings through mammograms and ultrasounds are crucial. These tests can detect cancer early, often before symptoms appear, significantly increasing the chances of successful treatment and survival. Early detection means that any sign of breast cancer can be treated while it is still manageable, leading to better outcomes and faster recovery," she added.

The city earlier passed an Integrated Cancer Control Ordinance, which mandates the creation of a comprehensive approach to address cancer, including the establishment of early screening initiatives.