

August 11, 2010
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NMMC AND UROLOGY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION TO OFFER FREE PROSTATE SCREENINGS

TUPELO, Miss.—In an effort to promote the importance of men’s health, North Mississippi Medical Center and Urology Professional Association will offer free prostate screenings for men over age 50 Saturdays, Sept. 18 and 25.

The free screenings will be available by appointment beginning at 8 a.m. at the NMMC Cancer Center, located at 990 S. Madison St. Interested individuals are asked to make an appointment for the free prostate screenings by calling (662) 377-7100. Limited appointments are available for each Saturday screening. This screening is for men who do not see a urologist on a regular basis.

“Excluding skin-related cancer, prostate cancer continues to be the most common cause of cancer among American men,” said Kristopher Whitehead, M.D., a local urologist. “Although breast cancer awareness has made tremendous strides, national focus for topics affecting men’s health are lagging. We are excited to participate in this campaign to increase awareness and early detection of prostate cancer.”

Screenings will consist of a prostate exam by a urologist and a prostate specific antigen or PSA test. The test requires drawing blood to measure the body’s level of prostate specific antigen. PSA is a protein produced by prostate cells that can be elevated in the blood of men with prostate cancer.

New guidelines from the American Urological Association now recommend that men be offered an initial screening PSA and rectal exam at age 40. Dr. Whitehead recommends that men discuss the potential benefits of screening with their doctor. “Recent studies have shown that PSA screening may reduce the chance of dying from prostate cancer,” Dr. Whitehead said. “Our goal is to reduce the number of men dying from this disease. One prostate cancer death is still one too many.”

Physicians associated with Urology Professional Association will conduct the screenings. Urologists are physicians who specialize in the treatment of the urinary tract in both men and women and in the reproductive tract in men.

Test results will be mailed to participants. Urology Professional Association will contact individuals who need to seek follow-up care. The screenings are free, but individuals or their insurance carriers will be responsible for covering the cost of any follow-up office visits and treatment.

For more information on the free prostate screenings, call (662) 377-7100 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375).