



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

RSA Tower 201 Monroe Street, Suite 914 Montgomery, AL 36104

Phone 334-206-5300 Fax 334-206-5534

[www.adph.org](http://www.adph.org)

---

## **Alabama breast cancer patients to receive information about treatment options under new act**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **CONTACT:**

Katherine Norris

(334) 206-6227

An Alabama law which will become effective Aug. 1 requires the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) to develop standardized information for breast cancer patients about treatment options available to them. Physicians are then required to disseminate the summary to breast cancer patients.

Under the Breast Cancer Patient Education Act of 2013, patient information about breast cancer treatment and reconstruction has been developed and is now available on the ADPH website. This includes an explanation of the various methods of treating breast cancer, breast reconstruction alternatives, and insurance coverage availability for these treatments.

The standardized written summary for alternative breast cancer treatments is to be provided by a physician to each person under his or her care who has been diagnosed with breast cancer upon diagnosis, or as soon thereafter as practicable. Hospitals that provide mastectomy surgery, lymph node dissection, or a lumpectomy are also to provide the information developed by the department.

Substantial improvements have been made in breast cancer treatment in recent years, and the law is intended to ensure every patient is aware of treatments that are now available.

Information is not intended to replace the advice or recommendations of a patient's physician. Rather, it is a resource to help patients learn about breast cancer treatment so that they can make the best choices regarding their own treatment plan.

The summary is available at [adph.org](http://adph.org). You may either go to [adph.org/earlydetection](http://adph.org/earlydetection) and click the Breast Cancer Brochure in the menu or go under A-Z Index and click the Breast Cancer Treatment Education link under the B listing. Both the brochure and the Breast Cancer Treatment Education Act of 2013 can be viewed and printed from the site.