

Hello.

At Addressing Cancer Together we know that having breast cancer is hard. We are here to help. Our goal is to help you get the care you need to recover from breast cancer. We will pay for your treatment and get help from other programs that reduce the cost of care. Beginning today, we are partners working together with you and your family so that you can get the help you need.

The information you need is in this packet. Please read the information and keep it so you know how to find us when you have questions or need help. We will need to work together during your cancer journey. The information in this packet will help you be prepared.

Sincerely,



Ellen Richards

ACT Program Information

Addressing Cancer Together (ACT) helps people who need breast cancer treatment. ACT helps people who:

- Live in Bastrop, Hays or Williamson counties
- Do not have health insurance
- Do not qualify for other help
- Have a low income

How does ACT help me?

- ACT staff connect you with breast cancer treatment.
- ACT pays the cost of cancer diagnostics, medication, biopsies, surgery to remove cancer, chemotherapy, radiation, and check-ups.
- ACT staff help you apply for programs to cover the cost of cancer care.
- ACT staff help you apply for and pay for health insurance when this is available.
- ACT staff answer questions and help solve problems.

What do I need to do for ACT to help me?

- Fill out forms to show you qualify for help. Send us documents such as bank statements or tax returns.
- Tell ACT staff if your income changes, you get insurance or you move to a new address.
- Go through the process to apply for health insurance if this is available.
- Respond to telephone calls and emails from ACT staff so that we can help you.
- Be patient. Getting help takes a lot of time and may be slower than you would like.

What can I do to get ready?

Find all of your information that shows the income for you and the people that live with you. Find your paychecks, bank statements, savings accounts, income tax statements, stocks and other investments. Keep this information in one place so that it is easy to find.

How do I get help?

1. ACT sends all of your information to Texas Breast Specialists and Texas Oncology.
2. Texas Oncology assigns two doctors to you - a breast surgeon and a medical oncologist. These doctors will work with you. The type of breast cancer and the stage of cancer will determine the steps the doctors take to treat you. You may have surgery, receive chemotherapy and/or have radiation treatment depending on your needs. You will work with the staff and doctors at Texas Breast Specialists and Texas Oncology to get your treatment. Texas Oncology will send your bills to United Way/Addressing Cancer Together.
3. The doctors may send you to have more tests. Do what your doctor tells you to do.
4. Most patients need surgery. This happens at a local hospital. You may need to fill out forms so that you do not need to pay. ACT staff will give you the forms and send the forms to the hospital. Most of the time, you will not pay for surgery. Hospitals may ask patients to pay something toward their care. Please plan for this payment. ACT staff work to make this cost as small as possible.

Texas Oncology will set the date and time for your surgery.

The anesthesiologist will also call you before surgery. This will be someone from US Anesthesia or National Anesthesia Partners.

5. You can call or email ACT anytime you have questions or problems with your treatment or with a bill.

Does ACT pay for all care? Does ACT pay for any doctor or healthcare provider?

No.

ACT has payment agreements with:

Texas Oncology, ARA, Clinical Pathology Associates, and US Anesthesia. You can tell the staff at these locations that you are a patient of United Way – Addressing Cancer Together. Ask them to call 737-225-3401 or email ACTinfo@uwatx.org with questions.

If Texas Oncology sends you to another doctor or provider, please call us. ACT cannot pay for care with every doctor or provider. ACT applies for financial assistance programs to cover the cost of care when we do not have a contract to pay a provider. Please ask Texas Oncology to use the ACT Preferred Provider List at the end of this packet.

If you need cardiac clearance to have surgery, please ask if this can be done at Texas Oncology or your regular primary care provider. If this is not possible and your doctor refers you to a cardiologist, call ACT.

ACT does not cover any type of reconstructive surgery. This will hopefully change in the future. If you choose to have reconstructive surgery, you will be responsible for paying for this surgery.

What do I tell the doctor's office if they ask me to pay?

ACT has payment agreements with:

Texas Oncology, ARA, Clinical Pathology Associates, and US Anesthesia. You can tell the staff at these locations that you are a patient of United Way – Addressing Cancer Together. Ask them to call 737-225-3401 or email ACTinfo@uwatx.org with questions.

If you are talking to the hospital before surgery, you may need to pay. However, this should be less than \$500. ACT will work with you before surgery so you know what to expect.

If any doctor or healthcare provider is asking you to pay, please contact us. You can always tell them you need a payment plan.

What if a doctor or hospital sends me a bill?

Please send your bills to ACT as soon as you receive them. There are 3 ways to send your bills:

1. Take a photo of or scan the bill and upload it to <https://tinyurl.com/ACTcaresUW>
2. FAX bills to: 877-512-8834
3. Mail bills to:
United Way for Greater Austin
Attn: ACT
5930 Middle Fiskville Rd, 5th Floor
Austin, TX 78752

If you take a photo or scan the bill with your phone, please make sure that the image is easy to see and read.

Does ACT pay for other types of care?

No. ACT only pays for breast cancer-related services. ACT does not cover any type of reconstructive surgery.

Is ACT health insurance?

No. ACT is a charitable program, not insurance.

What if I need help with transportation?

ACT will work with you to look for help with transportation.

How do I contact ACT if I have questions?

Please call 737-225-3401 or email ACTinfo@uwatx.org if you need help.

ACT is a charitable program, not health insurance. ACT can help when we have money in our budget. We may change whom we help when our funds are low.

ACT services are supported, in whole or in part, by a federal award by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Funding was made possible by the City of San Marcos, Williamson County, Hays County and Bastrop County.

ACT PREFERRED PROVIDER LIST (as of 3/1/2023)

Hospital services for surgery

ACT submits a financial assistance application ahead of surgery so the patient does not have to pay upfront when they qualify for assistance. **Advance notice of surgery and location** is critical for ACT to get assistance in place.

1. Ascension Seton – clear and fast process to secure financial assistance
2. St. David’s Hospital – takes up to 6 weeks to secure financial assistance
3. Cedar Park Regional – clear process, only attempted once but successful
4. Christus Santa Rosa – did not have any patients go to this hospital in 2022

Imaging

Please refer ACT patients to ARA with referral/billing code ACTUW

Labs

- ACT has a contract with Clinical Pathology Associates
- Quest/MedFusion has a patient assistance program

Genetic Testing

These testing providers have Patient Assistance Programs:

- Invitae
 - Submit order as Insurance. Enter the insurance type as "Other" and type 'PAPUNINSURED' as the insurance type. It would be helpful to have the PAP application up front, but not required.
- Myriad Genetics
 - To qualify for financial assistance, patients must meet criteria outlined by Myriad – see Financial Assistance for Uninsured Patients, Medical Criteria:
<https://myriad.com/about-myriad/myriad-cares/financial-assistance-program/>
- Ambry Genetics
 - When patient and genetic counselor/doctor are completing “TRF” patient needs to request to be considered for PAP.
- Agendia (Genomic profiling)
 - Submit the patient as a self-pay