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PRESS RELEASE

Ministry of Health and Wellness Introduces Point-of-Care Breast Ultrasound Services

Belmopan. June 23, 2025.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness, in partnership with the Special Envoy for the Development of Families and Children, the Belize Cancer Society, UNICEF, and Dr. Shenin Sachedina, D.O., FACOS (Breast Surgeon and Trainer), announces the introduction of point-of-care triage breast ultrasound training. This training aims to increase access to early detection of suspicious lesions that may lead to breast cancer for women across Belize.

Breast cancer continues to be diagnosed at advanced stages, both internationally and locally. Introducing triage breast ultrasound will significantly reduce the time to diagnosis and facilitate quicker access to standard mammography and follow-up imaging to ensure timely treatment—key factors in improving patient outcomes.

As part of this initiative, five ultrasound units have been generously donated by Dr. Shenin Sachedina to the Ministry of Health and Wellness. Healthcare professionals from five regional and community hospitals will receive training this week to triage women for further evaluation based on risk and symptoms.

These ultrasound services will be available at a later date this year at the following facilities:

- Punta Gorda Community Hospital
- Southern Regional Hospital
- Western Regional Hospital
- Northern Regional Hospital
- Cleopatra White Polyclinic, Belize City

This collaborative effort marks a significant step in expanding equitable access to breast cancer screening and demonstrates the Ministry's commitment to improving women's health outcomes across the country.

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