



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

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Report Shows Increase in Marin Melanoma Rates

The Greater Bay Area Cancer Registry recently reported that age-adjusted melanoma incidence was 43% higher in Marin County than the Bay Area average from 2007 through 2011. Marin's rise in melanoma incidence was concentrated in the 65 and older population. Marin facilities could see a greater volume of skin cancer screening appointments because of media attention surrounding elevated melanoma rates. This is also an opportunity to reinforce the importance of protection from cancer-causing sun exposure for patients of all ages.

Although formal recommendations for skin cancer screenings have not been issued in the U.S., there is evidence that early detection can effectively reduce melanoma mortality. Risk factors include male sex, fair complexion, and family history of melanoma. Education about skin cancer prevention and periodic above the waist screening for all patients, especially high risk groups, continue to be important components of primary care check-ups.

For more information, please see the attached press release and the link for the report:

http://www.cpic.org/files/PDF/Cancer_Registry/Reports/CPIC_Melanoma_Marin_report_072114.pdf

Warm Regards,

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