**SEE, TEST & TREAT**

**STORY COLLECTION GUIDE**

**WHY DO WE WANT YOU TO COLLECT STORIES?**

We are asking that each See, Test & Treat site submit 2 “stories” for our See, Test & Treat Story Bank this year. The purpose of collecting these stories is to bring to life the great work that you and your partners are doing for women in your communities. We want to paint a picture of how the See, Test & Treat program impacts the lives of the women that we serve. The stories in our Story Bank can be used for press releases, for grant writing purposes, newsletters and presentations. They can be brief anecdotes, experiences, interactions with a little bit of background when possible.

**DO STORIES NEED TO INCLUDE ACTUAL NAMES OR PICTURES?**

We do NOT have to use their actual names or their pictures if they do not want, but either way we do need to obtain a release form giving us permission to do so.

**WHAT KIND OF STORIES ARE WE LOOKING FOR?**

Ideally a story collected for the See, Test & Treat Story Bank would have 4 componenets:

* *Introduction*

For example, “Naomi is a single mother with 2 children who works two jobs- as a waitress in a local restaurant and a cashier at a local grocery store.”

* *An explanation of why the featured individual couldn’t access cancer screenings previous to See, Test & Treat*  
  For example, “Before she attended See, Test & Treat program, Naomi was unable to get regular check-ups because neither of her employers offered health insurance” (Other reasons might be that their health insurance did not pay for screenings; she did not have time to schedule screenings because of work and familial obligations or because she was just too scared to get a pap smear or breast cancer screening – for each of these reasons, indicate what the underlying cause of these barriers are)
* *What she was able to do because the See, Test & Treat program*

For example, “Because of the See, Test & Treat program Naomi was able to get screened for cervical cancer because she was able to schedule a free appointment on the weekend and was able to bring her kids, who had fun at the free children’s activities while she had her check-up”

* *What a major outcome was of her attending the See, Test & Treat program.*

For example, “Because Naomi attend the See, Test & Treat program, she found out that she met with a health insurance navigator that informed her that she is eligible for Medicaid and helped her enroll. The navigator also helped her connect with a primary care provider at the clinic where she can now access affordable health care regularly.” (Other outcomes can be that they were able to detect cervical cancer in its early stages and connect her to treatment; or that she now understands the importance of routine preventative care and says she will make sure that she gets an annual checkup;etc.)

**HOW CAN YOU GATHER THIS INFORMATION?**

* You can designate a few volunteers to be story collectors for your “story bank”
* You can ensure that key volunteers (physicians, health insurance navigators, nurses, residents) who will be interacting with the patients to be aware of the fact that we are gathering stories and ask them to keep patients in mind had striking/unique stories.
* You can have a “Story Bank” booth at the event where people who agree to share their story can write down their experience about why they came to See, Test & Treat. Incentives might encourage individuals to share their experience. (This might also be your check out station where you can collect surveys or forms that patients need to turn in).

**WHAT KIND OF QUESTIONS SHOULD WE ASK TO GET PEOPLE TO TELL US THEIR STORIES?**

Your volunteers can begin by asking questions such as

* What brings you to us today?
* How did you hear about this event?
* Tell me about your experience so far
* What do you feel is the best part of the event so far?
* What would you tell other women about your experience today?

Note that some patients are more talkative than others. If they feel someone was open to talking, they can be asked respectfully if they would be willing to share their feedback and story with us for our story bank. They can let them know what the story bank is used for and how it will be used to get funding and press that will allow us to grow the program and make sure that more women can take advantage of our services.

If English is not the participant’s first language, it is best that these questions are asked by someone who is fluent in their language. In order to prepare for this, identify those volunteers who are fluent in certain languages and prepare them for collecting stories.

If one of your patients has been connected with treatment as a result of the See, Test & Treat program, try to designate a “navigator” for this individual who will be able to keep track of their progress and outcomes, or find a way to track them through their medical records. When the time seems right, respectfully ask them if they would be willing to share their story so that we are able to spread the word about the good that the program is doing.

**ONCE WE IDENTIFY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS A COMPELLING STORY AND IS WILLING TO SHARE IT, WHAT DO WE DO?**Go over a release form with them, have them sign it and give permission to use the story. Then conduct the interview, write it up and send it to us or ask the individual if they want to write up their own story and send it to us. Let them know that we will contact them every time we utilize their story. Thank them for their time and make sure that you get good contact information for them.