

NM Low on Cancer Drugs

Posted: 8/30/2011 12:17:28 PM
Updated: 8/30/2011 12:18:14 PM

THEY'RE LIFE-SAVING CANCER DRUGS ... BUT THEY'RE IN CRITICALLY SHORT SUPPLY RIGHT NOW IN NEW MEXICO. DR CHERYL WILLMAN, DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO CANCER CENTER, SAYS THE SHORTAGE IS AFFECTING PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM LEUKEMIA, LYMPHOMA, AND BREAST AND TESTICULAR CANCER.

WILLMAN SAYS EVERY HOSPITAL IN NEW MEXICO THAT TREATS CANCER IS DEALING WITH THE DRUG SHORTAGE. SHE ALSO SAYS THE SHORTAGE IS NATIONWIDE, AND IS DUE TO THE FACT PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES AREN'T MAKING THESE DRUGS ANYMORE. SHE SAYS SINCE THE DRUGS HAVE GONE GENERIC, THERE'S NO PROFIT TO BE MADE. WILLMAN SAYS THERE ARE ABOUT 34 GENERIC CANCER DRUGS, AND AT LEAST 14 OF THEM ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY. SHE BELIEVES IT MAY TAKE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO GET THE PROBLEM SOLVED.