

## Cancer Screening Recovery

**Dr. Alan Kaplan, MD CCFP(EM) FCFP CPC(HC)**  
**Primary Care Lead, Central Region**

In the past year, the various waves of the pandemic continued to impact cancer screening and assessment services with many appointments either suspended or reduced. In addition, some patients are still reluctant to attend appointments in-person due to fear of exposure to COVID-19. There is significant concern regarding the long term impact of disrupted screening, delays in proper diagnoses, missed opportunities to detect and manage pre-cancerous lesions and the increase in need for treatment of more advanced cancers.

While there is still significant backlog, we are slowly reaching reasonable goals. Catching up on the overdue cancer screening, whilst continuing to engage in shared decision-making and advocating for the screening due currently, is both time sensitive and critical for the health of our patients. It is important to also reassure our hesitant patients that it is safe to visit hospitals and clinics for appointments.

As clinicians, please remember to proactively look at issues like cancer screening and vaccinations to improve the long term health of our patients. Initiatives by Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) will augment the educational processes that will be done by practitioners, and we will, by working together, get our system back on track.

### Central Region Cancer Screening Rates

● Target

Colorectal (overdue for screening)	Breast (participation)	Cervical (participation)
42%	55.3%	50.9%
≤40%	≥65%	≥65%

### Central Region Screening Volumes 2019 vs. 2020 vs. 2021

● 2019  
 ● 2020  
 ● 2021

#### Fecal tests



#### Pap tests



#### Screening mammograms



Source: Ontario Health - Cancer Care Ontario

## We would love to hear from you.

Are there challenges with cancer screening recovery in your practice? How can we better support your efforts for the benefit of your patients? Share your experiences and thoughts in this 5-10 minute survey. Your feedback will help us understand the status of cancer screening recovery in our region. Thank you in advance.

TAKE THE SURVEY HERE > [www.questionpro.com/t/AU1EcZrJs7](http://www.questionpro.com/t/AU1EcZrJs7)

---- TAKE OUR SHORT SURVEY AND ----

## ENTER TO WIN

**one of three prepaid \$100 VISA gift cards plus the first 20 respondents will also be entered to win one of two prepaid \$50 VISA gift cards.**

CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM UPDATES & REMINDERS >

## OBSP Temporary Policy Change: Mammogram Referrals for OBSP Participants Age 75 During the COVID-19 Pandemic

To accommodate participants who were unable to access a screening appointment when they were 74 years old and have now turned 75 years, Ontario Health temporarily suspended the need for mammogram referrals by their PCP for OBSP participants that turned 75 in calendar years 2020 or 2021. Due to the continuing pandemic and the capacity challenges that some sites may face in booking timely screening appointments, the temporary policy suspension is being extended to include participants who turn 75 in 2022. Participants must be age 75 at the time of their screening appointment (i.e., have not turned 76 years). They must meet all other OBSP eligibility criteria.

This temporary change in policy is intended to support participants age 74 who had their screening delayed or missed their screening due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, for ease of implementation, this policy applies to all participants age 75.

The temporary policy change is also applicable to participants in the High Risk OBSP who turn 75 years in the calendar year 2022. Participants have to be 75 at the time of the screening appointment.

## CCC: FIT Requisition Rejections Due to Duplicates

- Duplicates are among the top three requisition rejection reasons.
- LifeLabs has piloted following up with participants to confirm if a new kit is actually required (vs. following up with the primary care provider). Up to three phone calls will be made, and if the participant cannot be reached, the duplicate requisition will be rejected.
- Primary care providers (PCPs) are encouraged to follow up with patients to confirm receipt of the FIT test before re-requisitioning.
- FIT kits that are misplaced, damaged or not received within 6 months can be replaced without requiring a new requisition. Patients may call the lab for a replacement kit OR PCPs can order a new kit by checking the box off at the top of the requisition.

The image shows a 'Facial Immunochemical Test (FIT) Requisition - For Colorectal Cancer Screening' form from LifeLabs. A blue callout box with a white background and a blue border points to a checkbox in section 3, 'FIT Kit Mailing'. The checkbox is labeled 'Requester (PCP) to order a new FIT kit (within 6 months)'. The form includes fields for patient information, requisitioner details, and contact information. The LifeLabs logo and 'Ontario' logo are visible at the bottom right.

## CCC: Reducing the Endoscopy Backlog

- Ordering a FIT rather than a colonoscopy is recommended if a patient is at average risk of colorectal cancer or has a prior low-risk adenoma.
- Converting low-yield colonoscopy (e.g. average risk colonoscopy and prior low risk adenoma) procedures to FIT will improve colonoscopy access for higher risk patients.
- Referrals that are not aligned with CCC's recommendations may be declined by the endoscopist due to being at a low priority level.

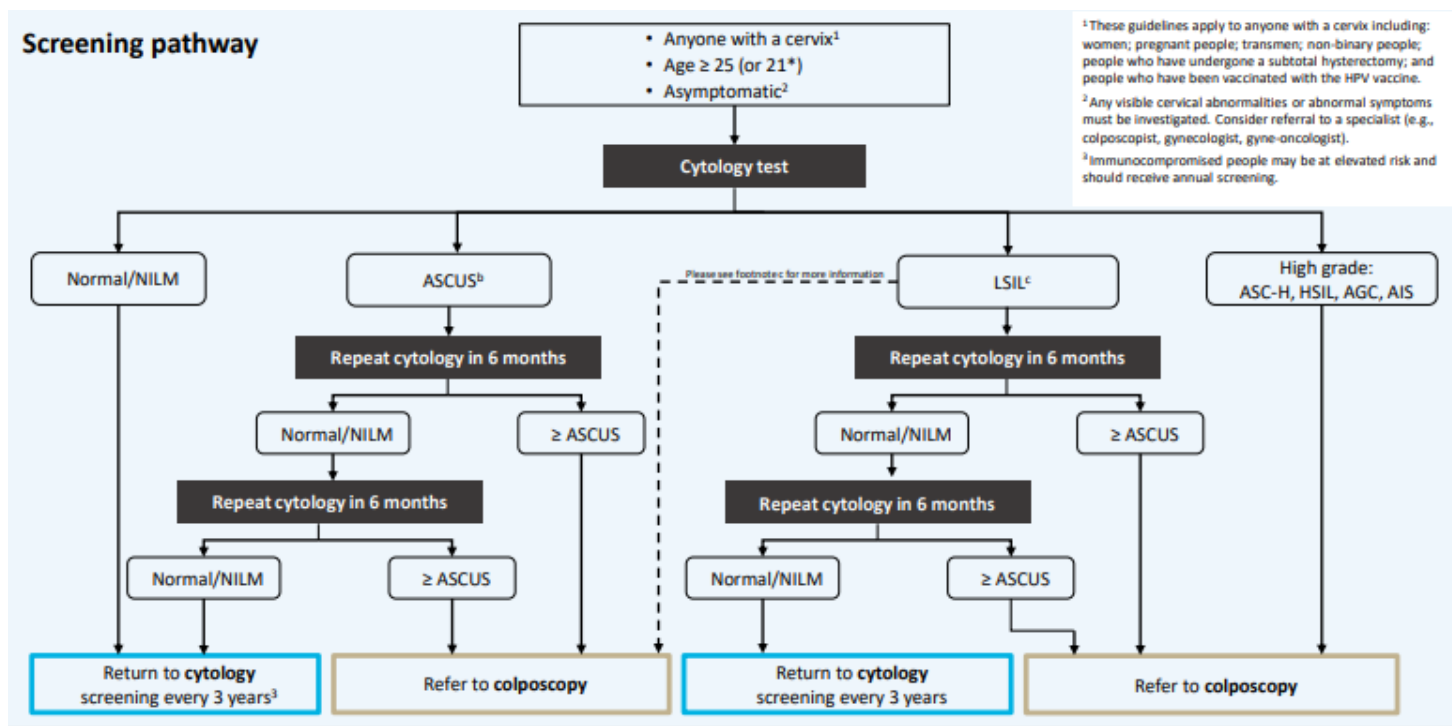
CCC Guide to Average Risk Screening with FIT:  
<https://bit.ly/3D1DezT>

## CCC: Timely Follow Up of FIT+ Results

- Patients with an abnormal FIT result have a higher likelihood of an underlying CRC compared to those who are referred to colonoscopy for average risk screening or for most of those referred for symptoms.
- Diagnostic delays following an abnormal FIT result could allow the disease to progress to a more advanced stage, and may lead to delays in receiving treatment.
- PCPs can facilitate timely access for a colonoscopy by promptly referring patients. The benchmark to complete the procedure is within eight weeks.

CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM UPDATES & REMINDERS CONT'D >

OCSP: Cervical Screening Pathway



To access the full Cervical Screening Recommendations Summary document, visit [bit.ly/3tiHRSX](https://bit.ly/3tiHRSX)

Ontario Lung Screening Program

Previously, lung cancer screening in Ontario was available through the Lung Cancer Screening Pilot for People at High Risk. This pilot ended in March 2021. The hospitals that participated in the pilot are now part of the Ontario Lung Screening Program.

Who to Refer for Lung Cancer Screening

- Current and former smokers ages 55 to 74
- Must have smoked cigarettes daily for at least 20 years (not necessarily 20 years in a row)

Not everyone who meets the referral inclusion criteria will be eligible for lung cancer screening in the program.

Healthcare providers can refer patients to a OLSP site hospital for a risk assessment and must complete the referral form to authorize the use of low-dose computed tomography, in case the patient is found to be eligible.

For more information on lung cancer screening, visit [bit.ly/36n7sBx](https://bit.ly/36n7sBx)

Insights4Care Program



OntarioMD's (OMD) Insights4Care (i4C) Program saves time and resources in managing a busy practice by offering clinicians tools and direct support that can be used to make practice improvements and unlock the value of your EMR data for better patient outcomes.

The i4C Program offers:

- **i4C Dashboard:** An EMR-integrated, user friendly and actionable population health management tool.
- **i4C Advisory Service:** Hands-on clinician advisory support from OMD's team of quality improvement and EMR experts.

For more information, visit [ontariomd.ca](https://ontariomd.ca) or email [support@ontariomd.com](mailto:support@ontariomd.com). In the Central Region, you can email OMD's Practice Enhancement Consultant directly at: **Afsoon Khazae** at [afsoon.khazae@ontariomd.com](mailto:afsoon.khazae@ontariomd.com).

## MARCH IS COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH!



Colorectal Cancer is the third most common cancer in Canada. Regular screening is important for early detection. 90% of colorectal cancers are curable when found early. Please follow up with eligible average-risk and overdue patients aged 50-74 years to encourage them to complete the FIT screening.

To obtain cancer screening public education resources for your practice, please contact [icsregional@southlakeregional.org](mailto:icsregional@southlakeregional.org)

### NEW INFORMATION & RESOURCES >

#### NEW Indigenous Tobacco Program Resources

[tobaccowise.cancercareontario.ca/resources](http://tobaccowise.cancercareontario.ca/resources)

The Indigenous Tobacco Program would like to share new educational resources for First Nations, Inuit, Métis and urban indigenous peoples and healthcare providers. These materials aim to promote the Indigenous Tobacco Program Services and increase awareness of commercial tobacco, cannabis and vaping prevention and cessation practices.

New resources include:

- Cannabis and Cancer Brochure
- Vaping and Your Health Brochure
- Smoking and COVID-19 Fact Sheet
- Quitting Smoking before Surgery Fact Sheet
- Indigenous Tobacco Program Flyer Series (six flyers)
- Be Tobacco-Wise Brochures: First Nations, Inuit and Métis

#### Ontario Health E-Learning Modules

##### Smoking Cessation and Cancer Modules

- **Quit Smoking:** A 20 minute online module designed for those diagnosed with cancer to help better understand how smoking affects health, how quitting can help cancer treatment, and how to quit smoking or smoke less.
- **Smoking Cessation and Cancer:** An online resource for health care providers designed to teach about benefits of cessation for people with cancer, how to deliver cessation interventions, and overcoming barriers to cessation.

##### Indigenous Relationship and Cultural Awareness Courses

These courses are a great resource to enhance your knowledge of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples' history, culture and traditions, as well as help build cultural competency. The 13 courses and self-learning program is recognized by the College of Family Physicians of Canada for up to 13 Mainpro+ Credits.

Access these courses at [elearning.cancercare.on.ca](http://elearning.cancercare.on.ca)

### CPD Webinar: Cancer Screening Recovery During the Pandemic and Beyond

This one-credit-per-hour Group Learning Program meets the certification criteria of the College of Family Physicians of Canada and has been certified by Continuing Professional Development, Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto for up to 2.0 Mainpro+ Credits.

For more information and to register:



[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_89PdgmJfT-2eWr5zQSKgKw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_89PdgmJfT-2eWr5zQSKgKw)

Contact: Rukaiya Alidina  
[ralidina@southlakeregional.org](mailto:ralidina@southlakeregional.org)

March 30th  
6:30-8:30pm



Central  
Regional Cancer Program  
in partnership with Cancer Care Ontario

[icsregional@southlakeregional.org](mailto:icsregional@southlakeregional.org)  
905.895.4521 ext 6065  
Fax: 905.952.2461

596 Davis Drive - Mailbox 13  
Newmarket, Ontario  
L3Y 2P9