

Central Regional Cancer Program

Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario)

A Newsletter for Primary Care Providers January 2024

THE QUARTERLY

Announcements



We are very pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Supriya Kulkarni DMRD, DNB, FRCPC (C), DABR** as the Regional Breast Imaging Physician Lead, for the Central Regional Cancer Program effective October 15, 2023.

Message from Dr. Kulkarni:

I'm a breast imaging radiologist working at UHN, Mount Sinai and Women's College Hospital, Head of the Division of Breast Imaging, Department of Medical Imaging, University of Toronto and the President Elect of the Canadian Society of Breast Imaging. Apart from clinical work and advocacy, I am engaged in teaching, education and CPD across Canada and internationally. I love travelling, writing and spending time with family and friends.



We are very pleased to announce appointment of **Dr. Visha Patel MD, FRCPC** as the Central Regional GI Endo-Colonoscopy Physician Lead, for the Central Regional Cancer Program effective November 1, 2023.

Message from Dr. Patel:

I'm a gastroenterologist at NYGH, specializing in therapeutic endoscopy. As the GI Endoscopy Lead at the Regional Cancer Program, I'm committed to advancing patient care through innovative techniques and cutting-edge procedures. Beyond medicine, I find solace in the greenery of golf courses and revel in quality time spent playing sports with my children, relishing the joys of both professional expertise and cherished family moments.

January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month



Cervical Screening Age

Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) is encouraging primary care providers to start cervical screening for patients at age 25, instead of age 21.

However people who are immunocompromised who are or ever have been sexually active and fall into one of the following groups should continue to be screened starting at age 21:

- People who are living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), regardless of viral load
- Organ transplant recipients (solid organ or allogeneic stem cell transplants)
- People requiring long-term treatment (either continuously or at frequent intervals) with medications that cause immune suppression.
- People who are living with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), regardless of whether they are receiving immunosuppressant treatment
- People with congenital (primary) immunodeficiency

Quick Links to resources for Healthcare Providers

UPDATED! Cervical Screening Guidelines

- [Cervical Cancer Prevention & Screening Pathway Map](#)
- [Cervical Cancer Diagnosis Pathway Map](#)
- [Cervical Cancer Treatment Pathway Map](#)

Cervical Screening FAQs for Healthcare Providers

Updates Recommendations on HPV vaccines

HPV Prevention and Vaccines FAQs

Follow-Up Instructions of Self-Collected HPV Testing



Expansion of the Ontario Breast Screening Program for Individuals Ages 40-69 in FALL 2024

A Message from your Regional Breast Imaging Lead:

Happy New Year to everyone. In 2023, the Ontario Breast Screening Program, the largest screening program across Canada, saw tremendous growth with the inclusion of average risk women with implants and eligible Two-Spirit, trans and nonbinary people, the breast density notification across all ACR BI-RADS densities directly to participants and most significantly, and approving breast cancer screening for women between the ages of 40 and 49 promoting health equity, supporting early detection, and prioritizing the well-being of women. The team at the Central Regional Cancer Program has been regularly communicating with facilities around effectively implementing these changes. I am motivated by their dedication to the program and greatly honoured to join their team as the Regional Breast Imaging Lead. I look forward to many more successes in 2024 in this region and beyond! Click [HERE](#) for additional information OBSP average risk and high risk eligibility.



Dr. Supriya Kulkarni, DMRD, DNB, FRCP(C), FSBI
Breast Imaging Division Lead & Associate Professor, Department of Medical Imaging,
University of Toronto
Staff Radiologist, Joint Department of Medical Imaging UHN-MSH-WCH, Toronto.

Program Updates and Resources



January 22-26 is National Non-Smoking Week!

It's the perfect time to remind your patients about the importance of smoking cessation. There are many resources available to support you in your practice. We would be happy to supply hard-copy resources for your primary care office – email us [HERE](#)

Ontario Health offers accredited professional development modules titled *Smoking Cessation and Cancer: For Health Care Providers*. Click [HERE](#) to access the module.

Quick Links to Data and Reports

[Ontario Dashboard: Screening Activity Report Regional Privacy- Regional Primary Care Provider Report](#)

[Central RCP Dashboard: Screening Activity Report Regional Primary Care Provider Report](#)

[Cancer Screening Program Quarterly Data Review \(Updates as of November, 2023\) for OBSP, OCSP and CCC](#)

Quick Links to Indigenous Resources

[Toolkit of Indigenous-Focused Approaches and Evaluation Indicators](#)

[A Journey we walk together: Strengthening Indigenous Cultural Competency in Health Organizations](#)

[Words Matter: Strategies to Reduce Bias in Electronic Health Records](#)

[Measuring Cultural Safety in Health Systems](#)

[Implementing Anti-Racism Interventions in Healthcare Settings: A Scope Review](#)

Webinars and Educational Opportunities

Register:

Cancer Talks Webinar: Prostate Cancer Screening: What, why and when?

January 19th 2023 at 12:00pm

Contact:

Krishna.Mandala@tbh.net to REGISTER

Hosted by Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre Prevention and Screening Team

Register:

2024 Primary Care Cancer Connection Lunch and Learn Series

Last Thursday of every month from 12:15 to 12:45 pm

Click HERE

Hosted by
The Champlain Regional Cancer Program

Register:

Conference | Public Health 2024 in Halifax, Nova Scotia

April 23 - 25, 2024

Click HERE

Hosted by Canadian Public Health Association

View the Recording:

Smoking Cessation for Primary Care Webinar

Click HERE

Hosted by the Central Region Cancer Program

View the Recording:

Patient Safety: Cultural Safety and Anti-Indigenous Racism

Click HERE

Hosted by Beverley Pomeroy, Senior Program Lead, Healthcare Excellence Canada

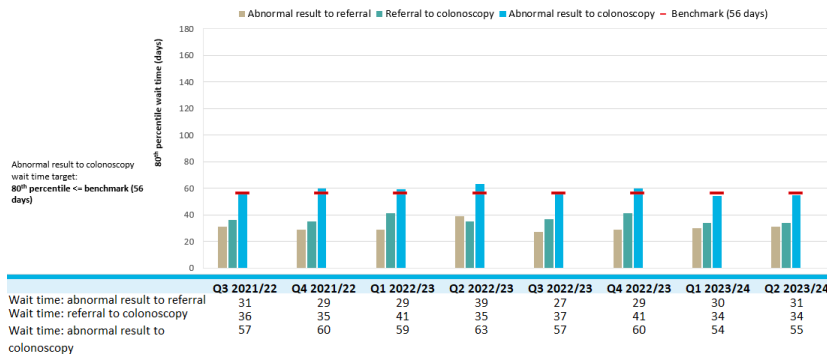
View the Recording:

Opening Ourselves: An introduction to anti-oppression practices and frameworks

Click HERE

Hosted by Maria Judd, Vice-President, Strategic Initiatives & Engagement, Healthcare Excellence Canada
AND Denise McCuaig, Métis Elder/Indigenous Coach

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month



What do you do when you get a POSITIVE FIT Result?

People who have a +FIT have a markedly elevated risk of colorectal cancer. While we are all aware that other things can cause the test to be positive, contamination, upper GI bleeding, significant dental bleeding and even benign colonic polyps, that should NOT stop us from acting, and acting with urgency.

Our new testing does not create false positives with things like meat ingestion like the old stool for occult blood testing could do, so it is much more reliable. If you get a positive FIT, the answer is NOT to repeat it. Positive is positive and we need to be recommending colonoscopy with some time urgency. We reviewed data on those patients who had FIT+ tests. I was amazed (as well as concerned and disappointed) that just creating the referral to the endoscopist took almost THREE weeks!

Hey, I know that it is one of MANY COMPETING priorities. I know that the patient has to be contacted and often a discussion is needed to see if they are willing to go for a colonoscopy. I am also not oblivious to the fact that there are significant, albeit unusual risks of colonoscopy like perforation.

I attach a diagram above of the data. The good news is that we are mostly hitting our target of having our patients who are FIT+ to get their colonoscopy WITHIN EIGHT WEEKS.

My message is clear and simple. Do NOT procrastinate. Send the referral (let's face it, using an EMR sending a referral only takes a minute 😊). Yes, discussion needs to happen with the patient, and do so. We can, however, improve the metrics that are currently blaming primary care for a significant part of the delay. Let's work on this together.

Happy to hear back from you on this (good or bad!) at for4kids@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Alan Kaplan

Central Region Primary Care Lead

Quick Links

[Fecal Immunochemical Test Instructions](#)

[FIT requisition form](#)

For access to forms, instructions and other documentation related to FIT, call 1-866-662-9233 or send an email to screenforlife@cancercare.on.ca

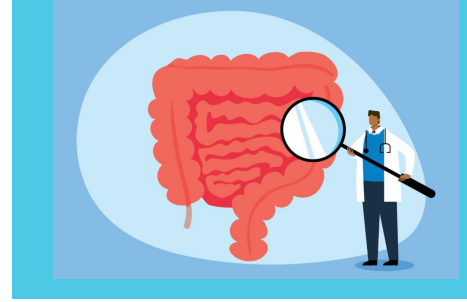
[Provider Registration for Patient Attachment](#)

Unattached patients (those without a primary care provider) with increased risk of colon cancer and abnormal FIT can be attached to provider for proper follow up.

[Reducing FIT Device Rejections](#)

As of December 4, 2023, LifeLabs will now accept unexpired FIT devices for testing if they are returned no later than 12 months after the FIT kit was mailed. Prior to this change, FIT devices returned more than 6 months after mailing would be rejected, even though many were otherwise appropriate for testing.

For printed resources please contact us at icsregional@southlake.ca



Central Regional Cancer Program Website

Visit www.screen4cancer.ca for up to date **patient** and **physician** information on breast, cervical and colon screening programs as well resources for Indigenous patients and smoking cessation.

www.screen4cancer.ca

Have a question related to cancer screening and follow-up care?

Send in your question to our Regional Leads

[Ask a Question](#)

Central Regional Cancer Program

Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario)

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