

April 2025

In This Issue (use the hyperlinks below to take you to the specific section):

- [Announcements:](#)
- [Upcoming Events & Webinars:](#)
- [Regional Cancer Program Updates:](#)
- [OH-CCO Updates:](#)
- [Promotional Materials:](#)
- [Data/Reports:](#)
- [Additional:](#)

Announcements:

- **New Cervical Screening and Colposcopy Lead:** The Central East Regional Cancer Program is pleased to announce that Dr. Julie Francis has stepped into the role of the Regional Cervical Screening and Colposcopy Lead effective April 23, 2025. In this role, Dr. Francis will work with the CE RCP Prevention and Screening team and the Ontario Cervical Screening Program (OCSP) to advance cervical screening across the Region. Dr. Francis has served as Division Head of Gynecological Oncology at Lakeridge Health since 2018.

The Central East Regional Cancer Program would like to thank Dr. Nathan Roth for his dedication in this role for over a decade. His leadership and guidance has made a lasting impact on improving cervical screening rates within the Region.

Dr. Roth leaves behind an enduring legacy and we thank him for his many years of visionary leadership!

Upcoming Events & Webinars:

Upcoming Regional Webinar:

HPV Implementation Follow-Up:

- Dr. Rebecca Wray, Regional Primary Care and Cancer Screening Lead, and Dr. Julie Francis, Regional Cervical Screening and Colposcopy Lead, are co-facilitating **HPV Implementation Follow-Up**, a subsequent webinar to the **Getting Ready for the Implementation of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) testing in the Ontario Cervical Screening Program (OCSP)**. This webinar is intended for those that work within Primary Care settings (i.e., Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, RPNs, RNs, etc) and will cover topics such as screening cessation, discharge from colposcopy, and frequently asked questions received to date.

The webinar is scheduled for Friday, May 2, 2025 from 7:30am-8:30am.

CME Credits : The Prevention and Cancer Screening Multidisciplinary Rounds is a self-approved group learning activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

To register for the upcoming webinar, please use the following link: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/f8bfaa0e-0723-40bf-8569-1c9d86f1c47c@ea73f753-6976-419e-952a-d3fd7aae0ba4>

Upcoming Cervical Screening Competency Trainings:

- The Central East Regional Cancer Program Cancer Screening and Prevention Team is providing Cervical Screening Competency Training for healthcare providers. These training sessions are being offered free of charge to support the HPV implementation go-live.

The intent of this workshop is to expand the number of healthcare providers that are trained to provide this valuable cancer screening to those that are eligible.

This training would be suitable for those that are:

- Able to provide cervical screening within their scope of practice (physicians, midwives, nurses [RNs and RPNs], and physician assistants) and
- New to their role, or would like additional practice in providing speculum exams as a part of cervical screening

The training includes both a theoretical and practical component. *The practical component uses mannequins.

Those that attend will receive a certificate of attendance indicating their participation.

*For those that do not require the hands-on training component, we would recommend viewing the Getting Ready for the Implementation of HPV Webinar Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GaP7AvUkA74>

To register, contact Kaitlin Loudon at kloudon@lh.ca

Region	Location	Date	Time
Durham	Lakeridge Health – Head Office 920 Champlain Court Whitby	Monday, May 5, 2024	Registration: 8:30am-9:00am Course: 9:00am -1:00pm

Past Webinar Recordings:

- Dr. Hugh Kendall, Regional Colorectal Screening and Gastrointestinal (GI) Endoscopy Lead, facilitated a webinar, *Abnormal FIT Follow-Up and Surveillance*. The recording can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4aZujB4J5I>

Regional Cancer Program Updates:

- Haliburton Highlands Health Services is delighted to share that Dr. Jennifer Mark, an Obstetrician-Gynecologist, is now accepting new patients. On April 22, Dr. Mark opened the Women's Clinic at the Minden Health Hub located at 4575 Deep Bay Road, in partnership with Haliburton Highlands Health Services.

For more information, please refer to their website: [Women's Clinic](#)

Currently, they are accepting appointments for cervical screenings for unattached patients.

In addition, Dr. Mark will be equipped to perform various outpatient procedures, including colposcopy, endometrial ablation, and Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure (LEEP), to name a few.

Referrals can be received by: Epic Search REF30 - Department HHHM Gynecology Clinic or by fax: <https://www.hhhs.ca/sites/default/files/2025-03/Women%27s%20Clinic%20Referral%20-%202025.pdf>

- Registration is open for the next offering of the **Your Body Image Series** starting on April 30.

This is a 9-week psycho-educational series is offered to female patients who have completed cancer treatment (or will complete before the end of February) and are experiencing body image concerns.

This psycho-educational series is offered in partnership between the DRCC Social Workers and Hearth Place Cancer Support Centre.

Please share the attached poster with registration details to patients who may benefit from this support.

- Did You Know? We are on social media.** Follow along as we share great information for community members. Feel free to re-share any of our content:

[facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) [instagram.com](https://www.instagram.com) [linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com)

OH-CCO Updates:

- Recently, Ontario Health, Cancer Care Ontario identified an issue with the new **HPV recall letter campaign** whereby some participants aged 69-74 who had previously received a cytology-based cessation letter were not excluded from the campaign. This resulted in some people incorrectly being sent HPV recall letters. The issue has now been resolved, but there may continue to be questions from participants.

We wanted to share some messaging (below) that can be leveraged to support answering any questions that you may receive.

- The previous Ontario Cervical Screening Program (OCSP) cytology-based screening recommendations state that someone can stop cervical screening at age 70 if they have 3 negative cytology results in routine screening in the previous 10 years. With the implementation of HPV testing, any patient who had previously met the cytology-based cessation criteria does **not** need to be screened again with HPV testing.
- We are aware that between March 7-24, some people aged 69-74 were incorrectly sent a recall letter from Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) with the implementation of the new HPV testing letter campaign. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused you and your patients. The issue has now been resolved.

Please advise any patients who had previously met the cytology-based cessation criteria (i.e., stop screening at age 70 if they have had 3 negative cytology results in routine screening in the previous 10 years) and who received a recall letter

that they do not need to be screened.

Anyone who has a history of abnormal cytology results or who has not met the criteria for screening cessation should get an HPV test.

- Please see the attached OH-CCO memo "**Ontario Health OCSP Memo_March 2025**", which provides a summary of the most frequent issues reported by the OCSP laboratory service providers during the first two weeks of HPV testing implementation. The memo includes a summary of recommendations for managing patients during the transition from cytology to HPV-based guidelines to support ongoing education and change management. As a reminder, asymptomatic patients should wait for their next routine screening interval before entering the HPV stream (i.e. If their pap test was due in February 2026, they would wait until February 2026 to do their first HPV test).
- As of March, the referral age for the **Ontario Lung Screening Program** has been updated to 55 to 80 years. The requirement of a smoking history of daily smoking for 20 or more years remains unchanged. Participants over the age of 80 may still be eligible for screening; however, a new requisition is required for each low-dose CT (LDCT) scan. Updated guidance is also available for re-referring patients who were previously ineligible. Please refer to the FAQ attached to the referral form for more details. Both the updated referral form (with attached FAQ) and the Primary Care Provider Tool are included for your review
- Ontario Cancer Statistics 2024** is now available. This is the fifth in a series of reports that provide comprehensive information on the burden of cancer in the province. The Ontario Cancer Statistics report is intended to help inform planning for future cancer services, investigate notable patterns and measure and monitor population-based cancer control efforts. To view the report: [Ontario Cancer Statistics 2024 – Cancer Care Ontario](#)
- Sign up now! Physician-Linked Correspondence (attached document):** Physician-linked correspondence is an effective way to motivate eligible patients to get screened for cancer.

Print/Promotional Materials/Community Engagement:

*Provided Free of Charge

- We are currently in the process of updating and ordering new material to support the OCSP Guidelines Changes. Some orders may be delayed in shipping as we wait for the updated resources to be printed.**

If you are interested in receiving any free cancer screening and prevention promotional materials (i.e., posters, brochures, etc), please complete:

<https://forms.office.com/r/0GGFL7FNp3>

All copies are also available in electronic format for waiting room screens, etc. Downloadable versions are available on <https://cercp.ca/healthcare-provider-resources/#health-promotion>.

- If you would like a cancer screening and prevention promotional materials specifically designed, please reach out to centraleast.csp@lh.ca

Data / Reports:

- If you have suggestions on how we could improve cancer screening in our region, please email centraleast.csp@lh.ca

CE RCP 2024/25 Key Performance Indicators – February 2025

Program	Indicator(s)	Central East - Regional Cancer Program	Previous Quarter	Percentage Change (+/-)	Target
OBSP	Participation (50-74)	61.7%	61.7%	0	>=65%
	Participation (40-49)	14.5%	-	-	-
	Abnormal mammogram to dx without tissue biopsy within 5 weeks	93.2%	82.2%	+11% ↑	>=90%
	Abnormal mammogram to dx with tissue biopsy, within 7 weeks	82.5%	75.2%	+7.3% ↑	>=90%
CCC	Participation*	59.7%	60.7%	-1.0% ↓	> 65%
	Abnormal fecal tests with no follow-up within six months	11.3%	10.9%	+0.4% ↑	<18%
	Abnormal fecal test result to hospital colonoscopy wait time	62 days	59 days	+ 3 day ↑	< =56 days
OCSP	Participation	54.1%	54.3%	-0.2% ↓	60%
	High grade test with no f/u within 6 months	10.6%	6.3%	+4.3% ↑	<=10%
	High grade pap test to colposcopy wait times	85 days	89 days	- 4 days ↓	<=70 days

Performance: Current Quarter vs Last Quarter

↓ = Decline from last quarter, positive change
 ↓ = Decline from last quarter, off track
 ↑ = Increase from last quarter, positive change
 ↑ = Increase from last quarter, off track

Performance: Current vs CCO Target

Meeting/Exceeding Target
 Approach Target (within 10%)
 Not Meeting Target

Central East Regional Cancer Program
 Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario)

Note. Quarterly data refresh is reflected in February, May, August, and November reports. OBSP participation is now categorized by two age groups: 40-49 and 50-74. OBSP participation target has also changed to >=65%. CCC annual improvement target changed to >65%.

Additional:

- To subscribe or unsubscribe from this mailing list, please email centraleast.csp@lh.ca

Kaitlin Loudon (she/her), MHS
 Primary Care & Community Engagement Lead, Central East Regional Cancer Program
 Cancer Screening & Prevention
 T. 905.576.8711 ext.32373
kloudon@lh.ca

 [Prevention and Screening](#)  [facebook.com](#)  [instagram.com](#)

Central East Regional Cancer Program
 Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario)



One System. Best Health.

Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.