

Central East Regional Cancer Program

Cancer Screening and Prevention Program Updates for Primary Care Providers

News and Updates

ColonCancerCheck Updates:

We are pleased to announce that on July 1, 2026, Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) will introduce updates to the ColonCancerCheck program, including a new laboratory service provider, a new fecal immunochemical test (FIT) device and several program changes that reflect the evolving evidence on colorectal cancer.

ColonCancerCheck will implement the following program changes:

- Average risk participants will start screening with FIT at age 45 (previously age 50).
- New family history recommendations will ensure that participants get the most appropriate screening test based on their level of colorectal cancer risk.

Several important process changes will also be introduced:

- ColonCancerCheck is switching from LifeLabs to In-Common Laboratories (ICL) for the distribution and testing of all program-related FITs. More information on working with ICL can be found in the frequently asked questions.
- A new FIT requisition for use with ICL, the new laboratory.

- A new FIT device will be used. Before go-live, you will get a sample of the new FIT device for demonstration purposes.

Resources to help you prepare for these changes are available at:

[ColonCancerCheck Resource Hub / Cancer Care Ontario](#)

Please see the attached OH-CCO memo for more information. Ontario Health will be hosting 2 provincial webinars for Primary Care. Registration links are embedded in the attached memo (please note these webinars are not accredited):

1. May 25, 5:00pm-6:00pm
2. June 10: 7:30am-8:30am

Local accredited webinar:

Dr. Hugh Kendall, Regional Colorectal Screening and Gastrointestinal (GI) Endoscopy Lead and Dr. Rebecca Wray, Regional Primary Care Lead, will host a webinar **Colorectal Cancer in Ontario and the ColonCancerCheckProgram.**

The webinar is scheduled for Friday, June 5th, 2026 from 8:00am-9:00am. This program has been certified by the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Ontario Chapter for 1 Mainpro+ Group Learning credit.

To register for the webinar: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)

Ontario Cervical Screening Program (OCSP) Updates:

Colposcopy Letter Template:

The Central East Regional Cancer Program has developed a one-page Colposcopy Letter Template.

The purpose of this letter is to provide information to patients about colposcopy, should it be required in follow up to abnormal cervical screening results. It is intended to be shared at the time of a patient's cervical screening appointment. This letter helps to proactively inform patient that, in the event of an abnormal result, their information will be shared with colposcopy services.

Please note that the ordering provider remains responsible for submitting a formal referral to a colposcopy provider. The letter given to the patient is intended to serve as tacit consent for this information sharing.

By setting expectation early, this approach helps reduce the need for follow-up communication to explain next steps.

As a reminder, colposcopy providers/services within the Central East Region can be found here: [Healthcare Provider Resources](#)

Emerging OCSF Change Management Focus Areas (attached):

Please see the attached OH-CCO memo regarding 5 emerging areas for change management in the OCSF. The memo includes requested action for providers to manage these scenarios.

- Screening at the appropriate OCSF interval to avoid specimen rejections
- Managing people with annual screening intervals during the transition to HPV testing
- Choosing the appropriate "specimen site" field on OCSF requisitions
- Managing people who are experiencing abnormal symptoms
- Incorrect or incomplete screening participant mailing address on OCSF requisitions

Ontario Lung Screening Program (OLSP) Updates:

Ontario Lung Screening Program Expanding in Central East Region

We're excited to share that the Ontario Lung Screening Program (OLSP) has expanded in the Central East Region.

In November 2025, Ross Memorial Hospital became a spoke site, offering Low Dose CT (LDCT) scans to eligible screening participants living in Kawartha Lakes and the northern areas of the Central East Region.

Haliburton Highlands Health Services has also started booking patients following the go-live of OLSP screening on May 4, 2026.

Patient navigation services will continue to be provided by the program hub at Lakeridge Health, where navigators assess eligibility through the Risk Assessment and offer smoking cessation support to patients who are ready to quit. All OLSP referrals will continue to be sent to Lakeridge Health to start the eligibility process. To refer a patient to the OLSP, please complete the [Ontario Lung Screening Program \(OLSP\) Referral Form](#) and fax it to [905-721-4864](tel:905-721-4864). E-referral is also available through Lakeridge Health Diagnostic Imaging Ocean referral.

We extend our sincere thanks to the dedicated teams at Haliburton Highlands Health Services, Ross Memorial Hospital and Lakeridge Health for their collaboration and commitment to expand access to lung cancer screening for residents across the Central East Region.

Expanded OLSP Eligibility Criteria: Including Other Forms of Smoked Commercial Tobacco

Effective April 1, 2026, the OLSP expanded the program eligibility criteria of a 20-year history of smoking cigarettes to include other forms of smoked commercial tobacco, such as cigars and pipes. This is in alignment with evidence that demonstrates smoking other forms of commercial tobacco (beyond cigarettes) also contributes to increased risk of lung cancer. The inclusion of additional forms of smoked commercial tobacco expands eligibility to more individuals who can benefit from lung cancer screening. Please note that Shisha and hookah are not included in the program at this time.

Events and Webinars

Dr. Hugh Kendall, Regional Colorectal Screening and Gastrointestinal (GI) Endoscopy Lead and Dr. Rebecca Wray, Regional Primary Care Lead, will host a webinar **Colorectal Cancer in Ontario and the ColonCancerCheckProgram.**

The webinar is scheduled for Friday, June 5th, 2026 from 8:00am-9:00am. This program has been certified by the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Ontario Chapter for 1 Mainpro+ Group Learning credit.

To register for the webinar: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)

On April 10th, 2026 Kim Meeking from Queering Cancer provided a presentation on **Improving Cancer Screening for Transgender and Gender Diverse**

Communities, which can be found here: https://youtu.be/UkXjgg_ljhg?si=K7Euu50_bLfjyKAY

Please note: This webinar is not readily available to the general public, so will not be displayed on our website or directly on our YouTube page and will only be accessible via the link above.

May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month, dedicated to the education on prevention and early detection of the world's most common cancer.

On May 1, Drs. Christian Murray and Roxana Mititelu, Dermatologist and Mohs surgeon, facilitated a webinar, **Non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC) & Melanoma: Approach for Primary Care.**

The recording can be found here: <https://youtu.be/ban3eB-zTPc>

Western Health Sciences is offering a **Primary Care Registered Nurse Certificate Program**. Upon successful completion of the program, full tuition will be reimbursed. September enrollment for this course is now open and will close September 1, 2026.

For more information, please visit: [Primary Health Care Registered Nurse Certificate Program - Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing - Western University](#)

Health Literacy and Patient Education: Low health literacy has been called a silent epidemic because of the negative impact it has on individual patient health, health care providers and the health care system. The Health Literacy and Patient Education Program at Ontario Health-Cancer Care Ontario has partnered with colleagues at the [Princess Margaret Cancer Centre](#) to offer the [Health Literacy and Cancer course](#). This course aims to provide you with communication fundamentals based on health literacy best practices to support patients and their families as they navigate cancer and the cancer system. The course takes about 1 hour to complete. You will receive a certificate of completion when you finish the course. This course is available to any individual providing support and care to patients with cancer.

How to sign up and access the course

1. Create your account in [Princess Margaret Cancer Campus](#) using your work email. Click on the 'create an account' button in the top right corner of the page.
2. Navigate to and enroll in the [Health Literacy and Cancer](#) course.

Community Based Events

EmpowerHer (poster attached). May 23rd, 10:00am-3:00pm

Black women face unique health disparities that impact early detection, diagnosis, treatment, fertility outcomes, and overall well-being. This year is the 3rd year offering cancer screening and education to address these unique needs. EmpowerHer is designed to provide trusted education, accessible screening resources, and a welcoming space where your concerns are taken seriously and your health is prioritized. Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/empowerher-breast-reproductive-health-wellness-screening-event-tickets-1983970272492?aff=oddtcreator>

CheckForCervicalCancer Mobile Unit:

The Central East Regional Cancer Program, in collaboration with Durham Region Paramedics, Durham Region Transit, North Durham Family Health Team (NDFHT), and Durham Community Health Centre (DCHC), are hosting a number of cervical screening mobile clinics throughout Durham Region to improved access to this very important cancer screening. Screening events will run from approximately 11:00am-6:30/7:00pm. For more details about the clinics, follow us on social media @CheckForCancer

1. June 4 - Ajax
2. July 15 - Oshawa
3. July 29 - Sunderland
4. August 12 - Claremont
5. August 19 - TBD
6. September 15 - Pickering
7. September 25 - TBD

Regional Program

Updates

In November, the Central East Regional Cancer Program hosted Primary Care Oncology Day, which focused on obtaining feedback about system barriers for the Ontario Cervical Screening Program (OCS) and ColonCancerCheck (CCC). The current summary is attached. If you would like to provide any additional feedback, please complete the following surveys:

o Ontario Cervical Screening Program: [Ontario Cervical Screening Program: Primary Care Oncology Day Feedback – Fill out form](#)

o ColonCancerCheck: [ColonCancerCheck: Primary Care Oncology Day Feedback – Fill out form](#)

- We have noted an increase in the CCC & GI Endoscopy Abnormal fecal test result to referral wait time indicator (20 days). Please ensure that all abnormal (positive) FIT to referral falls within 14 days to support timely next steps in patient care.
- OCS high grade cytology test or elevated risk screening result with no follow-up within 6 months (13.5%). As a reminder, those who have a high-grade cytology test should be referred to colposcopy. We know there is a variety of reasons why patients do not attend follow up appointments. Please use the letter template attached to encourage patients to attend colposcopy appointments.
- OCS high grade cytology test or an elevated risk screening result to colposcopy wait time (99 days). The attached colposcopy letter should be issued directly to the patient upon arrival for a cervical screening appointment. Please note that a referral to the colposcopy site is still required. This will reduce the time required to contact the patient to receive verbal consent and placing an effective referral.
 - Please reach out to the Regional Cancer Program if you are unsure of next steps for your patients, based on the results of their cervical

screening. Updated care pathways can be found on the HPV hub:
[Human Papillomavirus \(HPV\) Testing in Ontario: Implementation Resource Hub | Cancer Care Ontario](#)

- If you continue to experience specific delays related to these indicators or have suggestions to improve performance, please let us know. For information on where to make a referral to Endoscopy and Colposcopy, visit: [Healthcare Provider Resources](#)

Central East Regional Cancer Program Key Performance Indicators – February 2026

Program	Indicator(s)	Central East - Regional Cancer Program	Denominator (N)	Previous Quarter	Denominator (N)	Percentage Change (+/-)	Target
OBSP	Participation – Q3 25/26	64.2% (50-74)	174,707	64.4%	174,424	-0.2%	>=65%
	Initial assessment procedure occurred within 3 weeks of abnormal screen date – Q3 25/26	78.0%	1,584	79.0%	1,774	-1.0%	>=90%
	Abnormal mammogram to dx without tissue biopsy within 5 weeks (40-74) – Q3 25/26	92.6%	1,378	95.1%	1,539	-2.5%	>=90%
	Abnormal mammogram to dx with tissue biopsy, within 7 weeks (40-74) – Q3 25/26	78.2%	206	78.9%	232	-0.7%	>=90%
CCC & GI Endoscopy	Participation – Q3 25/26	61.6%	353,228	62.2%	352,718	-0.6%	> 65%
	Abnormal fecal tests with no follow-up within six months – Q4 24/25	8.9%	507	8.9%	303	0%	<18%
	Abnormal fecal test result to referral wait time – Q3 25/26	20 days	-	19 days	-	+1 days	< 14 days
OCSP	Abnormal fecal test result to hospital colonoscopy wait time – Q3 25/26	51 days	-	55 days	-	-4 days	< =56 days
	Participation – Q3 25/26	61.6%	302,468	62.5%	302,656	-0.9%	>= 60%
	High grade cytology test or elevated risk screening result with no fu within 8 months (25-69) – Q1 25/26	13.5%	347	18.5%	108	-5.0%	<= 10%
	High grade cytology test or an elevated risk screening result to colposcopy wait times (25-69) – Q2 25/26	99 days	-	82 days	-	17 days	<=70 days

Performance: Current Quarter vs Last Quarter
 + Increase from last quarter, positive change
 - Decrease from last quarter, off track
 = Increase from last quarter, positive change
 = Decrease from last quarter, off track

Performance: Current vs Q30 Target
 Meeting/Exceeding Target
 Approaching Target (within 10%)
 Not Meeting Target

Note: Quarterly data refresh is reflected in February, May, August, and November reports.

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

Print and Promotional Material

A newly developed Ontario Breast Screening Program tri-fold brochure has been added to the list of available promotional materials.

To order brochures for your clinic, please complete the following form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/7Xhp6NBD4q>



- 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/7Xhp6NBD4q>
- 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

Additional Information

- The Central East Regional Cancer Program has recently updated our social media platforms to make it more reflective of the work we do in the community. Our new handles on Instagram and Facebook are @CheckForCancer.
- Patient facing material will use the below imagery to represent the program. We would strongly encourage you to follow us on either Instagram or Facebook as we continue to share and promote community events, guideline changes and strong patient stories.



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