

## Cancer Screening Tip of the Month – June 2025

Toronto Central Regional Cancer Program, Cancer Screening eBulletin

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### Ontario Lung Screening Program (OLSP): Screening Patients at High Risk of Lung Cancer

People ages 55 and older may be eligible for screening through the [Ontario Lung Screening Program](#) if they meet certain referral criteria and are eligible upon risk assessment.

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#### Referral Criteria:

##### Referrals for people age 55 to 80 must:

- Have a smoking history of any amount of cigarettes daily for 20 years, and
- Have Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) coverage

***\*Anyone age 80 or older requires a new referral every year\****

##### Referrals for people age 81 or older must:

- Have a smoking history of any amount of cigarettes daily for 20 years
- Have Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) coverage
- Have discussed the risk and benefits of lung screening with you
- Be well enough to undergo and recover from lung cancer treatment
- Have a lifespan (over 5 years) to benefit from treatment

Access the OLSP referral form [here](#). Not everyone who meets the referral inclusion criteria will be eligible for lung cancer screening in the OLSP.

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#### Exclusion Criteria: People are not eligible for lung cancer screening in the OLSP if they:

- Have been diagnosed with lung cancer or are actively under surveillance for lung nodules
  - Have had hemoptysis of unknown cause or unexplained weight loss of more than 5 kg in the past year
  - Are undergoing diagnostic assessment, treatment or surveillance for life-threatening conditions (e.g., a cancer with a poor prognosis)
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#### OLSP Risk Re-Assessment: When to re-refer patients who do not qualify for lung cancer screening

- If a patient you referred is told by an OLSP site that they do not qualify for lung cancer screening, you can **re-refer them in 3 years** to have their risk re-assessed.
- If your patient experiences any of the following changes, they can be re-referred for re-assessment at the time of the change:
  - Started smoking again (if they had quit at the time of the assessment)
  - Diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
  - Identified a new family history of lung cancer

To learn more about the OLSP please visit the [Ontario Lung Screening Program Frequently Asked Questions for Healthcare Providers](#). Click [here](#) for a list of OLSP locations and their fax numbers.

Click [here](#) to view the previous Cancer Screening Tip of the Month eBulletins.

If you have any questions or if you would like to receive the Cancer Screening Tip of the Month, please email the Toronto Central Regional Cancer Program, Cancer Screening team: [infoTCRCP@sunnybrook.ca](mailto:infoTCRCP@sunnybrook.ca)