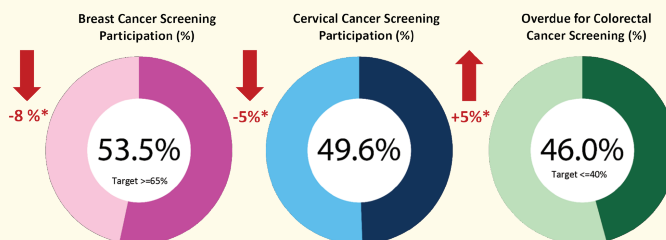


Your Help is Needed to Address the Cancer Screening Backlog!

Since the beginning of the pandemic, there has been a decline in new cancer diagnoses across Ontario, suggesting that some cancers may be going undetected. This is likely due in part to the reduction in cancer screening, resulting in an estimated backlog in the Toronto Central region of approximately:

- **32,185** missed OBSP screening mammograms
- **38,119** missed Pap tests
- **20,750** missed fecal immunochemical tests (FIT) for those at average risk for colorectal cancer



Note: estimated as of March 2021, compared to pre-pandemic volumes

Toronto Central participation by program as of March 31st, 2021; (*) estimated change in percentage points compared to March 31st, 2020. Data source: CS_OBSP Monthly Report_2021_05; CS_OCSP Monthly Report_2021_05; CCC and GI Endoscopy Report 2021_05

With the success of vaccination and decreasing COVID-19 cases, we are expecting to see a gradual resumption of routine care. This is the time to prioritize cancer screening discussions with your patients. The following section includes some key points for each screening program.

Breast Cancer Screening:

All Average Risk and High Risk Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP) sites are fully operational and able to accommodate patients for screening. Sites have reported high levels of appointment cancellations, rebooking and general hesitancy to attend appointments.

- Women ages 50-74 at average risk for breast cancer should complete screening through the OBSP. For a list of OBSP sites in Toronto Central, please visit: <https://bit.ly/2SchZsf>
- For more information on eligibility for the High Risk OBSP and sites in Toronto Central, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3v1yh12>

Cervical Cancer Screening:

Based on local availability of resources and capacity to provide in-person preventive care, consider recalling patients aged 25 to 70 years who are overdue for their Pap test.



Colorectal Cancer Screening:

Fecal Immunochemical Testing (FIT) for average risk people ages 50-74 with no first degree relatives diagnosed with colorectal cancer has been fully operational since October 2020.

- Continue to fax FIT requisitions to LifeLabs at 1-833-676-1427. To download a copy of the FIT requisition, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3yWw4dT>. Ensure that the OHIP number is valid and the version code is up to date prior to faxing the FIT requisition.
- For a list of the facilities in Toronto Central that have the expertise and resources to perform colonoscopies in people with an abnormal FIT result, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3vM4RIX>
- To ensure our facilities have resources to accommodate symptomatic and high risk colonoscopy referrals, please order FIT for individuals with no personal history of pre-cancerous colorectal polyps requiring surveillance. This includes average risk individuals whose most recent colonoscopy was normal or had 1-2 low-risk adenomas size <1cm AND no high-risk histology (villous or sessile serrated features, or high grade dysplasia).
- For more information on the Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) post-polypectomy surveillance recommendations, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3g9X6an>



Options to Stay Connected: If you currently receive our cancer screening communications by fax and you would prefer to receive updates electronically, please submit your email address to info@TCCancerscreening.ca.



Follow us on Twitter:
[@TO_CancerScreen](https://twitter.com/TO_CancerScreen)

If you have any questions please email your Regional Primary Care Leads Dr. Ed Kucharski (edward.kucharski@utoronto.ca) or Dr. Lisa Del Giudice (Lisa.DelGiudice@sunnybrook.ca). For an electronic newsletter, email info@TCCancerscreening.ca

NEW! Ontario Lung Screening Program

On April 1, 2021, the Lung Cancer Screening Pilot for People at High Risk officially transitioned to the Ontario Lung Screening Program (OLSP).

Please consider referring your patients who meet the inclusion criteria for further eligibility assessment:

- 55 to 74 years old, and
- A current or former smoker who smoked cigarettes every day for at least 20 years (not necessarily 20 years in a row, which means there could be times when they did not smoke)

Eligible patients will receive annual low dose CT chest scans. At this time, nurse practitioners are not able to refer to the OLSP given that the ordering of CT scans is not within the scope of practice for nurse practitioners in Ontario.

To download a copy of the referral form, please visit:

<https://bit.ly/3uDbLPi>. Completed referral forms can be faxed to the OLSP at UHN at **416-340-4137**.

For more information or resources for patients, please visit:

<http://bit.ly/2vKwMzh> or call the OLSP at UHN at **416-340-4154**.



Call for Expressions of Interest - Regional Indigenous Cancer Lead

The Toronto Central Regional Indigenous Cancer Program (TCR-ICP) is currently recruiting candidates for the **Regional Indigenous Cancer Lead (RICL)** role. The RICL will champion the strategic vision and goals of the Indigenous Cancer Strategy among colleagues and peers in the Toronto Central region. This role is approximately a one day per week commitment. For more information and to apply, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3yWynOc>.

Call Auntie Clinic

The Call Auntie Clinic welcomes anyone who is looking for access to health care and is grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing and being. Call Auntie is staffed by health and community workers that connect Toronto's Indigenous peoples with culturally safe health information, referrals and COVID-19 support. For more information, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3iry1ZO>, call **437-703-8703** or email callauntieclinic@sgmt.ca.

Support for First Nations, Inuit, Métis and Urban Indigenous Cancer Patients

Leonard Benoit is the Indigenous Patient Navigator for First Nation, Inuit, Métis and Urban Indigenous peoples living with cancer in the Toronto Central region.

Leonard helps patients and their families navigate the cancer system by:

- Answering patient questions about what to expect with upcoming appointments or tests
- Helping patients better understand their cancer and treatment
- Connecting patients with health care providers and spiritual and community support
- Assisting patients with completing applications for financial and transportation services
- Advocating with patients and their families to conduct ceremonial practices such as smudging, cedar bath, pipe ceremony, qulliq/kudlik



For more information or to refer a patient to the Navigator, please download the referral form at: <https://bit.ly/3vJfhZG>, or contact Leonard Benoit at **647-309-1794**, Leonard.Benoit2@uhn.ca

Opportunity for QIP Funding to Reduce Cancer Screening Backlog

To support cancer screening recovery, primary care providers are receiving an invitation to submit an application for a Cancer Screening Quality Improvement Project (QIP). Successful applicants will receive funding of up to \$2,000 and additional in-kind project support. For more information please email info@TCcancerscreening.ca



Follow us on Twitter:
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If you have any questions please email your Regional Primary Care Leads Dr. Ed Kucharski (edward.kucharski@utoronto.ca) or Dr. Lisa Del Giudice (Lisa.DelGiudice@sunnybrook.ca). For an electronic newsletter, email info@TCcancerscreening.ca