



## Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Funding: Frequently Asked Questions

### Purpose:

This document provides regions and hospitals with answers to frequently asked questions about gastrointestinal endoscopy funding.

### About Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Quality-Based Procedure (GI Endo QBP) funding and non-Health System Funding Reform (HSFR) funding:

- GI Endo QBP: GI Endo QBP funding encompasses all procedures related to gastrointestinal endoscopy and is defined by procedure codes required for appropriate funding.<sup>1</sup> QBP hospitals are also known as HSFR hospitals. For more information on the GI Endo QBP, please visit:
  - [http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/ecfa/funding/hs\\_funding.aspx](http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/ecfa/funding/hs_funding.aspx)
- Non-HSFR: Through the ColonCancerCheck program, Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) funds non-HSFR hospitals (Ministry of Health definition: a hospital that performed less than 2,700 acute and day surgery for any two of the prior three years<sup>2</sup>) for incremental colonoscopy volumes performed (volumes above those covered in their global budget) to address a family history of colorectal cancer (someone who has one or more first-degree relatives with a history of colorectal cancer), and an abnormal fecal immunochemical test (FIT) or an abnormal guaiac fecal occult blood test (gFOBT). As of June 24, 2019, gFOBT is no longer the recommended colorectal cancer screening test for people at average risk of colorectal cancer in Ontario. gFOBT-positive colonoscopies will only be eligible for incremental funding until the end of March 2020.

### References:

1. Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Quality-Based Procedures Clinical Handbook for GI Endoscopy. [updated 2015-07. Available from [http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/ecfa/docs/qbp\\_gi.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/ecfa/docs/qbp_gi.pdf) ]
2. Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Health System Funding Reform Frequently Asked Questions. Toronto: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2008 [updated 2013-12-30. Available from [http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/ecfa/funding/hs\\_funding\\_qa.aspx#1](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/ecfa/funding/hs_funding_qa.aspx#1)]

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Quality-Based Procedure (GI Endo QBP)

#### Which procedures are funded by the Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Quality-Based Procedure (GI Endo QBP)?

- Funding and in-scope procedure information can be found in the *GI Endoscopy QBP Funding Guide and Technical Specifications* document. This document is updated each year and sent to hospitals through Regional Cancer Programs.
- Please contact [screening@cancercare.on.ca](mailto:screening@cancercare.on.ca) for more information.

#### What is the funding process/cycles for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Quality-Based Procedure (GI Endo QBP)?

- The GI Endo QBP funding process follows the funding allocation cycles below:
  - **Initial allocation:** Volume allocations are determined using historical data. Hospital feedback is considered.
  - **Year-end settlement:** Year-end volume data is settled against the most recent allocation. Funding is recovered for variation under the initial allocation. Funding is allocated for variation over the initial allocation only if there are remaining QBP dollars. This funding is not guaranteed.

#### Will Cancer Care Ontario fund hospitals participating in the Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Quality-Based Procedure (GI Endo QBP) program if they go over their allocated volumes?

- Cancer Care Ontario cannot guarantee funding above what is listed in the hospital agreement.
- If a hospital is concerned about their allocated volumes, they can talk to their Regional Cancer Program and contact Cancer Care Ontario at [screening@cancercare.on.ca](mailto:screening@cancercare.on.ca).

#### How are polypectomies funded through the Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Quality-Based Procedure (GI Endo QBP)?

- Cancer Care Ontario funds hospitals through the GI Endo QBP for polyp excision by size and number of polyps. Please refer to the *GI Endoscopy QBP Funding Guide and Technical Specifications* document for more information. This document is updated each year and sent to hospitals through Regional Cancer Programs.
- Please contact [screening@cancercare.on.ca](mailto:screening@cancercare.on.ca) for more information.

### **What are the expectations for hospitals in managing their gastrointestinal endoscopy volumes, including fecal immunochemical test (FIT)-positive colonoscopy volumes?**

- Hospitals should notify their Regional Cancer Program and Cancer Care Ontario, on a quarterly basis, if fiscal year volumes are anticipated to increase or decrease by greater than 5% compared with initial allocation.
  - Each hospital that receives funding through GI Endo QBP will be allocated FIT-positive colonoscopy volumes that may not be redirected to other endoscopy line items, prior to discussion with Cancer Care Ontario.

## **Non-Health System Funding Reform (HSFR)**

### **Which procedures are funded by ColonCancerCheck (CCC) for non-Health System Funding Reform (HSFR) hospitals?**

- Non-HSFR hospitals participating in Cancer Care Ontario's CCC program receive incremental funding (volumes above those covered in their global budget) for colonoscopies performed to address a family history of colorectal cancer (someone who has one or more first-degree relatives with a history of colorectal cancer), an abnormal fecal immunochemical test (FIT), or an abnormal guaiac fecal occult blood test (gFOBT) (until March 2020).
- For more information on non-HSFR funding, please contact [screening@cancercare.on.ca](mailto:screening@cancercare.on.ca).

### **What is the ColonCancerCheck (CCC) funding process for colonoscopies at non-Health System Funding Reform (HSFR) hospitals?**

- CCC funds for family history of colorectal cancer (someone who has one or more first-degree relatives with a history of colorectal cancer), an abnormal fecal immunochemical test (FIT) or an abnormal guaiac fecal occult blood test (gFOBT) (until March 2020).
- CCC funding process follows the below funding allocation cycles:
  - **Initial allocation:** Volume allocations are determined using historical data and feedback from hospitals and Regional Cancer Programs.
  - **Year-end settlement:** Year-end volume data is settled against the allocated volume. Payments made toward allocations above those actually performed are returned to Cancer Care Ontario. Payments for volumes performed above those allocated are only made if funding is available. These payments are not guaranteed.

**Will Cancer Care Ontario fund non-Health System Funding Reform (HSFR) hospitals if they go over their allocated volumes?**

- Cancer Care Ontario cannot guarantee funding above what is listed in the hospital's agreement.
- If a hospital is concerned about their allocated volumes, they can talk to their Regional Cancer Program and contact Cancer Care Ontario at [screening@cancercare.on.ca](mailto:screening@cancercare.on.ca).

**Does Cancer Care Ontario fund non-Health System Funding Reform (HSFR) hospitals for polyp excisions?**

- Polyp excision is not funded separately; the ColonCancerCheck funding rate for fecal immunochemical test (FIT)-positive colonoscopy includes the average price of polyp excision.
- Cancer Care Ontario will continue to monitor and reassess polyp excision volumes to ensure appropriate funding.

**What are the expectations for hospitals in managing their fecal immunochemical test (FIT)-positive colonoscopy volumes?**

- Hospitals should talk to their Regional Cancer Program if they need guidance and help in managing their FIT-positive colonoscopy volumes. If a hospital is expecting a significant variance either above or below their allocation, they should notify Cancer Care Ontario and their Regional Cancer Program.

**Additional information**

**Do out-of-hospital premises (OHPs) receive endoscopy funding from Cancer Care Ontario?**

- At this time, Cancer Care Ontario does not provide endoscopy funding for OHPs.

**Where can I find additional information on Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Quality-Based Procedure (GI Endo QBP) and non-Health System Funding Reform (HSFR) funding?**

- For more information on GI Endo QBP and/or non-HSFR funding, please contact [screening@cancercare.on.ca](mailto:screening@cancercare.on.ca).