



Ontario Health
Cancer Care Ontario

Dear colleagues,

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 (In-Common Laboratories or ICL), a new fecal immunochemical test (FIT) device and several program changes that reflect the evolving evidence on colorectal cancer. ColonCancerCheck, Ontario's organized, population-based colorectal cancer screening program, was launched in 2008 to help reduce colorectal cancer-related mortality. Hospitals play a key role in providing high-quality colorectal cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment.

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.

We are also pleased to share that this spring we will be lowering the threshold to define an abnormal FIT, which means we will be detecting more colorectal cancers and pre-cancerous polyps.

Primary care practices associated with your hospital will implement minor process changes, including using a new FIT requisition. While there are no process changes for endoscopists, ensuring timely colonoscopy for people with an abnormal FIT result remains critically important due to the higher likelihood of finding cancer. ColonCancerCheck recommends follow-up with a colonoscopy within eight weeks of an abnormal FIT result.

Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) and your Regional Cancer Program have been working collaboratively to plan for these changes. Your Regional Cancer Program will work with hospitals and providers to support change management and prepare for impacts on downstream services. It will also continue to provide leadership and support on colorectal cancer screening and gastrointestinal endoscopy quality initiatives.

Program resources, including updated materials reflecting these changes, are available at ontariohealth.ca/coloncancercheckhub, including:

- ColonCancerCheck Guide to Colorectal Cancer Screening in Ontario
- FIT Requisition (do not start using until July 1, 2026)
- FIT-Positive Colonoscopy: Facility-Level Guidance

- Frequently Asked Questions for Primary Care Providers and Endoscopists
- ColonCancerCheck Recommendations on Post-Polypectomy Surveillance

In addition, Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) will be offering webinar sessions prior to launch for primary care providers and endoscopists.

Webinar options for primary care providers:

- Webinar 1: May 26, 5:00-6:00 pm
 - [Registration link](#)
- Webinar 2: June 10, 7:30-8:30 am
 - [Registration link](#)

Webinar options for endoscopists:

- Webinar 1: June 3, 7:30-8:30 am
 - [Registration link](#)
- Webinar 2: June 11, 5:00-6:00 pm
 - [Registration link](#)

If you have any questions about ColonCancerCheck, please contact Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) toll free at 1-866-662-9233 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday or email us at cancerinfo@ontariohealth.ca.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of the ColonCancerCheck program.

Sincerely,



Jill Tinmouth MD PhD
FRCPC

Provincial Medical
Director, Cancer Control,
Ontario Health (Cancer
Care Ontario)



Catherine Dubé MD MSc
FRCPC

Clinical Lead,
ColonCancerCheck
program, Ontario Health
(Cancer Care Ontario)



Aisha Lofters MD PhD
CCFP

Provincial Primary Care
Lead, Cancer Screening,
Ontario Health (Cancer
Care Ontario)