# **NWT PCN Newsletter**

October 2025



### In this Newsletter Issue:

- IPCT Round 2: Call for Proposals
- Patient Attachment Benefits and Supports
- 2025/26 RSV Programs Prevention Program
- Cancer Screening Tip of the Month
- Canada Post Service Disruption

## **IPCT Round 2: Call for Proposals**

2027 call for proposals to create and expand approximately 75 new primary care teams to connect 500,000 more people to primary care. This is part of the more than \$2.1 billion that the province is investing to support Ontario's Primary Care Action Plan. This will connect everyone in the province to primary care by 2029.

The Ontario government has launched the 2026–

The NWT PCN wants to support all primary care providers to get access to the interprofessional supports that they need to grow and sustain their practices. If your organization is interested in gaining access to interprofessional staff like nurses, dieticians, social workers, physiotherapists and medical secretaries, then please email Victoria Warwick at vwarwick@hrh.ca to set up a time to learn more.



Click here to learn more

Check out the IPCT Expansion page on our <u>website</u> to find recordings from our IPCT Information Sessions and to learn more.

# **Patient Attachment Benefits and Supports**

Eligible Primary Care Clinicians looking to accept new patients from Health Care Connect will be eligible to receive up to \$500 for each patient attached.

In addition, the NWT OHT and NWT PCN are supporting Primary Care Clinicians accepting patients from Health Care Connect by providing access to the following resources:



new patient. Social Determinants of Health Navigator, A navigator that can help clinicians by taking on the burden of having to help clients navigate to

Clinical Intake Nurse, A nurse embedded part time in select clinics to

support with the extra burden of care that is associated with taking on a



social services and fill out forms etc. The NWT OHT and NWT PCN is interested in engaging and supporting Primary Care Clinicians accepting new patients.

If you are currently, or will be, accepting new patients please click here to complete

the following form.

2025/26 RSV Programs Prevention Program

The following information related to the 2025/26 RSV prevention program has been developed to support health care providers:

- 2. Older Adult High-Risk RSV Vaccine Program Fact Sheet for Health Care Providers
- 1. Letter to health care providers re: RSV
- 3. Infant and High-risk Children RSV Prevention Program Fact Sheet for Health Care **Providers V2.1**

Please reach out to <u>CStrembicky@hrh.ca</u> if you are interested in receiving a copy.

**Cancer Screening Tip of the Month** 

### **Toronto Central** Toronto Central Regional Cancer Program, Cancer

**Regional Cancer Program** 

(OBSP)

cancer.

the risks of PABC.

High Risk

Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario)

Screening Pregnant and Lactating People in the Ontario Breast Screening Program

### • Pregnancy associated breast cancer (PABC), commonly defined as a breast cancer occurring during pregnancy, throughout 1 year postpartum, or during lactation,

Screening eBulletin

- affects about 1 in 3000 pregnancies. • Delays in PABC diagnoses frequently occur due to physiological changes or minor
- For patients with suspicious breast cancer symptoms, breast imaging for assessment or diagnosis should be managed as clinically appropriate throughout pregnancy and lactation.

disorders related to pregnancy that can mask the initial signs or symptoms of breast

### support breast screening discussions with pregnant and lactating patients. Screening with mammography during pregnancy and while lactating is safe and

Breast Screening Recommendations for Pregnant and Lactating People:

effective. Pregnant or lactating patients should be counseled on their options for screening and

The Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP) has developed recommendations to

- People who do not want to screen while pregnant can start screening three months after giving birth, even if they are lactating.
- Screening in the first three months postpartum is not recommended because there are changes in the breast tissue which can result in a mammogram being less effective.
- **Pregnant Participants** Average Participants should be offered screening with mammography Risk Participants should be offered screening with mammography and

MRI is not recommended during pregnancy as the fetus could be exposed to

			the contrast dye	
			Lactating Participants	
		Average Risk	Participants should be offered screening with mammography	
		High Risk	<ul> <li>Participants should be offered screening with mammography and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)</li> <li>Participants should be informed of the potential risks of contrast dye: a very small amount can pass into breast milk but does not pose a risk to the infant</li> </ul>	
Click here to access breast screening resources and tools to support primary care provider				S.
Canada Post Service Disruption				

A Canada Post labour disruption started on September 26, 2025, and is affecting cancer screening mailings, including ColonCancerCheck (FIT kits), and screening result letters for CCC, OBSP, and OCSP.

### **Key Impacts:** • Screening Letters: May be delayed or not delivered. Participants should contact their

primary care provider or OBSP site if due for screening. **Abnormal Results:** FIT: Results will be couriered for those without a provider.

- Cervical & Colorectal: Providers receive results and must notify patients.
- **FIT Kit Instructions:**

• **Breast:** OBSP will contact participants directly.

ultrasound

- Delays expected in receiving kits. Do NOT return completed FIT kits by mail. Use LifeLabs drop-off locations:
- <u>locations.lifelabs.com.</u> • Do NOT use expired kits (less than 6 months to expiry).
- Samples: 15–30 days old: May not produce a result.
- Over 30 days old: Will not be tested. Please coordinate with your Regional Cancer Program before sharing further. More info:
  - cancercareontario.ca/maildisruption canadapost.ca/updates
- cupw.ca