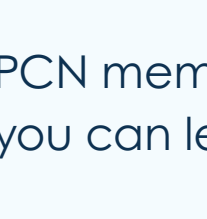


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Stay Connected: Join the NWT PCN WhatsApp Group

Stay connected on updates, opportunities, and collaborative initiatives across North Western Toronto!



The North Western Toronto Primary Care Network (NWT PCN) is launching a **WhatsApp group** to support timely communication, knowledge sharing, and connection among PCN members.

PCN members are invited to join the group. Participation is completely voluntary, and you can leave the group at any time.

Interested in joining? [Fill out the PCN WhatsApp Group sign up form here.](#)

ColonCancerCheck Program Changes

ColonCancerCheck Program Updates Now in Effect

On July 1, 2026, Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) will introduce the following updates to the ColonCancerCheck program:

- Average risk participants will start screening with FIT at age 45 (previously age 50).
- Increased risk participants will start screening with colonoscopy at age 40 (previously age 50), or 10 years earlier than the age their youngest relative was diagnosed.
- Family history recommendations will consider the type, age and number of relatives diagnosed with colorectal cancer to determine whether FIT or colonoscopy is recommended.
- In-Common Laboratories (ICL), will manage the distribution and testing of all program-related FITs. More information on working with ICL can be found in the [FAQs for Primary Care Providers](#).
- A new FIT requisition will be used with ICL.
- A new FIT device will be used. If you have not received a sample of the new FIT device for patient demonstration purposes, please click [here](#) to request one.

[Click here for the ColonCancerCheck Resource Hub for more information and resources](#)

Update: Receiving FIT Results

- Due to delays with electronic ordering and result retrieval, most providers will receive FIT results by fax at launch. We recognize that this is frustrating and has impacts on your practice and patient workflows. ICL will send FIT results individually for patients (i.e., no batching of results) through the following fax line: (416) 639-9548.
 - While two OntarioMD-certified electronic medical record (EMR) vendors (Global Med EMR and EMR Advantage) will be able to make FIT results available by EMR, the majority of vendors will not be ready for July 1, 2026.
 - Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) is working with OntarioMD, the Ontario College of Family Physicians, the Section on General and Family Practice and the Ontario Medical Association to resolve this. Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) is committed to working through this issue and will provide regular updates on their progress.
- **Action requested:** If an OntarioMD-certified EMR is your preferred reporting method, please indicate which EMR you are using by completing the form [here](#). ICL will then switch your reporting method from fax to EMR once the feature is available in your EMR.

Temporary Changes to Newborn Hearing Screening Services

Due to OPSEU strike action involving Toronto Infant Hearing Program (Surrey Place) staff, Universal Newborn Hearing Screening services in Toronto are currently operating at a **very limited capacity**.

To help ensure families can still access screening services, caregivers can temporarily book newborn hearing screening appointments at participating clinics in the neighboring Tri-Region area. Families should look for clinics identified as **"Limited capacity for Toronto families"** when booking. Caregivers may also register their information to be contacted when Toronto services resume for eligible infants.

[Click here for more information or to book an appointment](#)

For questions, contact the Infant Hearing Program at **416-925-5141 ext. 2529**.

Connecting Patients to Bariatric Care at Hennick Humber Hospital

Hennick Humber Hospital is a Bariatric Centre of Excellence offering medical and surgical bariatric care through a multidisciplinary team.

Referring a patient to a bariatric program is essential for several reasons:

- Medically Acceptable Weight Loss
- Comprehensive Care
- Standardized, evidence-informed care pathways
- Long-term follow-up and support
- Access to specialized obesity care clinicians

Effective April 2026, referral eligibility criteria have changed and lowered, expanding access for eligible patients. Referrals are submitted through the Ontario Bariatric Network at www.ontariobariatricnetwork.ca.

Stream	Eligibility	Care options
Surgical	• BMI ≥ 30 to < 35 kg/m² with ≥ 1 listed comorbidity*, or BMI ≥ 35 kg/m² with or without comorbidities. • 18 years of age and older	Options include gastric bypass, sleeve gastrectomy, or duodenal switch/single anastomosis duodeno-ileal bypass with sleeve gastrectomy. Patients have access to a multidisciplinary team that work in partnership with Primary Care Providers. Eligible patients with weight regain may be re-referred.
Medical	• BMI ≥ 27 to < 30 kg/m² with ≥ 1 listed comorbidity, or BMI ≥ 30 kg/m² with or without comorbidities. • 18 years of age and older	A one-year non-surgical program with RD, R. Kin, SW, RN, and internal medicine support. The program includes weekly didactic presentations led by the multidisciplinary team to provide education, guidance, and support throughout each patient's weight loss journey. Options may include MediMeal, lifestyle modification, anti-obesity medications, or a combination. MediMeal and medications are not covered by OHIP.
*Comorbidities	Hypertension; Type II Diabetes mellitus; coronary heart disease; Diagnosed sleep apnea; GERD; Idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension.	

Physicians, family health teams, and nurse practitioners are encouraged to review the updated eligibility criteria and refer eligible patients through the Ontario Bariatric Network. For questions or inquiries, please contact the clinic at bariatricclinic@hrh.ca or **(416) 242-1000 ext. 23300**.

Join ECHO OBN at Humber River Health

Looking to build confidence in obesity and bariatric care? Humber River Health's ECHO OBN sessions connect family physicians and community providers with a multidisciplinary bariatric team through free, virtual, CME-accredited, case-based learning. Sessions are practical, interactive, typically less than one hour, and designed for busy clinicians. Participants may also join ECHO OBN sessions hosted by other Ontario Bariatric Centres of Excellence when topics or schedules align.

Register today and tap into Ontario's obesity care network.
<https://obn.echoontario.ca/register/>

Complimentary Registration Available for IFSO 2026 World Congress

Primary care providers, residents, and fellows are invited to take advantage of a **complimentary registration opportunity** for the **2026 IFSO World Congress**, taking place in Toronto from **September 1-4, 2026**. As the world's largest international gathering focused on obesity medicine and metabolic and bariatric surgery, the congress offers a unique opportunity to learn from leading experts in the field.

Sponsored by the **Ontario Bariatric Network** in partnership with **Eli Lilly Canada** and **Novo Nordisk Canada**, the first 200 eligible registrants will receive complimentary access to a CME-accredited SCOPE School: Obesity Medication Management pre-congress workshop, along with full congress registration. Participants will gain practical, evidence-based knowledge on obesity management guidelines, obesity medications, obesity surgery referrals, multidisciplinary care, and long-term treatment strategies. [Click here for more information on the event.](#)

[Click here to register](#)

York University: A new kind of medical school

York is addressing the primary care doctor shortage by developing a medical school with a focus on person-centred and community-engaged family medicine and generalist care. York works with local health care partners to develop innovative curriculum and research to improve lives and strengthen health systems.

The school is scheduled to open in 2028 and is currently undergoing accreditation. We are supporting communities in developing interprofessional primary care team proposals and sharing faculty opportunities for physicians, including hosting learners, teaching, supervision, case-based learning, and simulation. Leadership roles are also available, including Dean and program lead positions.

York Medical School staff are available to give presentations, provide info and answer questions.

Information is available on the School's [website](#) and [Careers](#) page.

Physicians can join the mailing list to stay up to date by scanning or clicking the QR Code: