

Memo

SUBJECT: Updated Primary Care Provider Authorization Process at Regional Hospitals	TO: Regional Partners
FROM: Roxanne MacAskill, Regional Director, Mississauga Halton Central West (MHCW) Regional Cancer Program (RCP)	DATE: June 20, 2025
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To support earlier detection and diagnosis of breast cancer, as well as standardize the referral model across the Mississauga Halton Central West (MHCW) Region, an updated Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP) referral model will be implemented in collaboration with collaboration with Halton Healthcare, Headwaters Health Care Centre, Trillium Health Partners and William Osler Health System. This new process aims to streamline patient navigation and expedite timely access to diagnostic services following an abnormal OBSP screen.

Notably, the updated referral process has been implemented and is now in effect at Halton Healthcare, Headwaters Health Care Centre and Trillium Health Partners. William Osler Health System will adopt the same process on July 2, 2025.

As part of a broader regional quality improvement initiative, this update transitions the Primary Care Provider (PCP) Authorization process to an updated “opt-out” model. In this model, all PCPs will automatically participate in the auto-referral process unless they choose to opt out. This change enables participating OBSP sites to directly refer patients for follow-up care after an abnormal breast screen—such as additional imaging, biopsies, or surgical consultations through Breast Diagnostic Assessment Programs (DAP)—in alignment with the OBSP Breast Assessment Pathways. **PCPs who do not wish to participate are offered an ‘opt out’ option and are required to inform the respective Diagnostic Imaging department within the specified timeframe, as outlined below.**

This initiative aims to create a standardized and streamlined referral model across the MHCW region for coordinating timely follow-up after abnormal OBSP screens. This initiative aligns with the OBSP 40-49 expansion, improving early detection and diagnosis, while reducing the administrative burden on PCPs and ensuring timely follow-up care within provincial target waittimes. Initially, this enhanced process will only apply to OBSP sites at our hospital partners, with implementation at Integrated Community Health Services Centres (ICHSCs) planned for a later date.

Please share this update with colleagues and referring providers.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to the delivery of high-quality cancer care in our region.

Opt-Out Model Process

PCPs will be automatically included in the **OBSP auto-referral process**, unless they choose to opt out. To opt out, PCPs must contact the **Diagnostic Imaging department** at the relevant hospital site within 4 business days of receiving the abnormal result report. PCPs who opt out will assume full responsibility for coordinating follow-up care, including submitting requisitions for any additional imaging or procedures their patients may require.

Site Specific Changes

Trillium Health Partners:

As of **October 15, 2024**, Trillium Health Partners has adopted the opt-out model for patients who have screened at their sites. A memo was distributed to regional PCPs in October 2024 to inform them of this change.

Halton Healthcare:

Halton Healthcare implemented a process in August 2024, where, with PCP approval, follow-up tests (including biopsies, additional imaging, and Breast DAP referrals) are coordinated through Halton Healthcare Diagnostic Imaging on behalf of the PCP. No written requisition is required if the initial imaging was done at Halton Healthcare. Further details can be found at www.haltonhealthcare.on.ca. The updated opt-out process went into effect on **May 27, 2025**. No further action is required for PCPs who have already opted out to the initial process.

Headwaters Health Care Centre:

Headwaters has transitioned to the opt-out model as of **June 19, 2025**. If you have previously signed up for the Headwaters Breast DAP under the former opt-in model, no further action is required. If the initial imaging was completed at Headwaters, the patient will be contacted to schedule their biopsy and, if appropriate, referred for surgical consultation.

William Osler Health System:

Osler as an organization is moving to an opt-out model. **PCPs** will be automatically included in the **auto-referral process as of July 2, 2025**. No further action is needed unless the PCP wishes to opt out.