

Memo

SUBJECT: Expansion of Colorectal Cancer Screening Eligibility and Program Enhancements (Effective July 1, 2026)	TO: Regional Partners
FROM: Roxanne MacAskill, Regional Director, MHCW RCP Dr. Andrew Bellini, Regional Colorectal Cancer Screening Lead, MHCW RCP	DATE: June 26, 2026 CC: Gulrukh Ladha, Regional Manager, MHCW RCP

The Mississauga Halton Central West Regional Cancer Program (MHCW RCP) is pleased to announce that, effective July 1, 2026, colorectal cancer screening eligibility has been expanded to include all individuals aged 45 years and older through Ontario Health's ColonCancerCheck (CCC) program.

This update reflects revised provincial guidelines, including lowering the recommended screening start age for average-risk individuals from 50 to 45, updated eligibility criteria based on family history, the introduction of a new fecal immunochemical test (FIT) device, and the transition to a new laboratory service provider.

In alignment with these clinical changes, the CCC correspondence system has been enhanced with the introduction of a new physician-linked reminder letter. This letter will be sent to individuals who have not returned their FIT kit within two months and includes colorectal cancer screening information and motivational messaging. The inclusion of personalized, physician-linked content, shown to improve screening uptake, is expected to increase FIT kit return rates and overall participation, reduce rejections due to expired kits and requisitions, and decrease workload for primary care providers.

These enhancements represent a significant advancement in colorectal cancer prevention and early detection. The new FIT test offers improved accuracy and effectiveness in identifying pre-cancerous polyps. This expansion is expected to provide more than one million additional individuals with access to lifesaving screening services, supporting earlier detection and improved outcomes.

Summary of Key Changes (Effective July 1, 2026):

- Lowered screening start age to 45
- Updated eligibility criteria for average- and increased-risk populations
- Introduction of new FIT device and laboratory vendor
- Lowered FIT positivity threshold (effective April 1, 2026)

Early detection through regular screening significantly improves the likelihood of successful treatment. The expansion of FIT testing to younger populations reinforces the importance of awareness and proactive screening, particularly for those at increased risk. All stakeholders are encouraged to promote screening within their communities and networks.

Community Engagement and Resources

To support implementation, MHCW RCP and Ontario Health have delivered webinars and educational sessions for healthcare providers. Updated resources are also available, including multilingual FIT testing toolkit postcards (available in 10 languages), an informational video, and revised website content.

For access to resources from webinars, knowledge transfer events, Grand Rounds, and Primary Care Oncology Day, please visit: [Home - The Mississauga Halton Central West Regional Cancer Program](#) or contact mhcwrpc@thp.ca.

For comprehensive program updates, eligibility criteria, and provider resources, please refer to the ColonCancerCheck Resource Hub: [ColonCancerCheck Resource Hub | Cancer Care Ontario](#).

Thank you for your continued support and advocacy supporting the better health of our community.

Best
MHCW RCP