

# CANCER *talk*

CONNECTING WITH MANITOBA'S PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS

## UPwords

➤ NETWORK NEWS FOR PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS

### NEW RADIATION THERAPY PATIENT EDUCATION VIDEO SERIES

Important Information for Healthcare Providers

We are excited to introduce a new patient education video series entitled [A Guided Journey: Understanding Radiation Therapy in Cancer Treatment](#). The video series is approximately 35 minutes long and provides valuable insights into the steps of the radiation treatment journey.

Dive in and empower yourself to assist patients undergoing radiation therapy. We believe that your investment of time in understanding these videos will empower you to provide elevated support and information to patients undergoing radiation therapy, and we look forward to the positive impact these videos will have on our shared commitment to outstanding patient care.

#### UPDATES TO CANCER SCREENING

- FIT Turns One!
- HPV Vaccine
- Expanding Breast Cancer Screening
- New Resources for Healthcare Providers

View page 3,4 & 5 for more.

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR

Upcoming events and videos can be found online.

Check out page 6 for details.

#### PROVINCIAL CANCER CARE CONFERENCE

- The Patient Voice
- Sharing Stories of Resiliency and Reconciliation

Read more on page 7.

If you have questions regarding the work-up of suspected cancer or any other cancer-related questions, please contact the CancerQuestion Helpline for Healthcare Professionals, Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (204) 226-2262.

## Message from the President and CEO



### STRENGTHENING THE BODY AND MIND

Dr. Sri Navaratnam, PRESIDENT & CEO, CANCERCARE MANITOBA

Every year, more than 7,000 Manitobans hear the words “You have cancer”. Hearing these words is understandably highly emotional and, in a moment, lives are forever changed.

CancerCare Manitoba is committed to providing high-quality, evidence-based, equitable cancer treatment to all Manitobans. But this is not the complete picture of comprehensive care that Manitobans deserve. Research shows that when we surround patients with supportive care to strengthen the body and mind throughout the cancer experience, the outcome is improved. Patients and caregivers have echoed the research by telling us what they need for fully comprehensive care and support. Without support, the cancer experience can be very challenging.

Primary care providers play a key role in supporting patients through the cancer experience. You are there when the diagnosis is made and the devastating news is delivered. You assist patients in navigating the cancer pathway, answering many questions, and offering support. You continue to see and support patients once they are in the cancer system and receiving treatment. We are so grateful for the strong support of the primary care community to individuals with cancer and to CancerCare Manitoba.

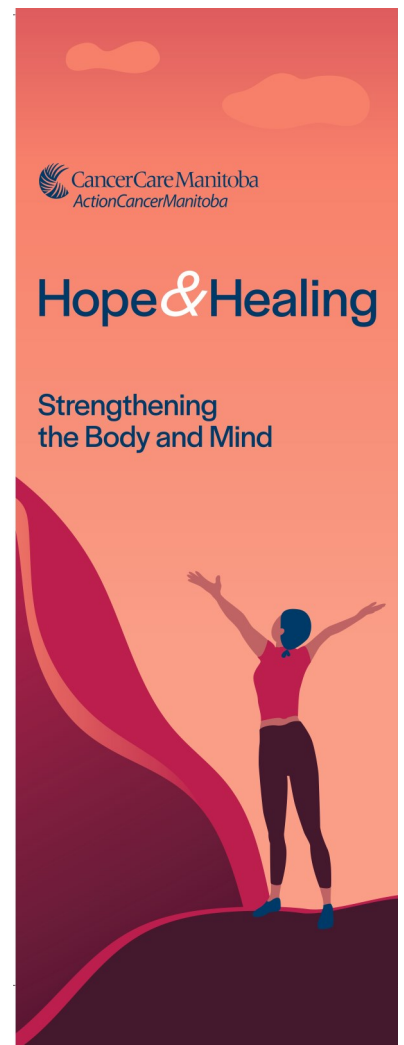
For many years, CancerCare Manitoba has provided supportive care through the Department of Psychosocial Oncology, the Patient & Family Resource Centre, the Breast Cancer Centre of Hope and the Adolescent & Young Adult (AYA) Program, offering hope to patients through counselling, peer support, nutrition services, and art therapy to name a very few of the services offered.

We are advancing our vision to bring together all support programs under one umbrella of the Hope & Healing

Program to strengthen the body and mind. Our objective is to expand and enhance support services so patients with all cancers throughout our province can access programs. Our goal is that a life with cancer is a life well lived.

The Hope & Healing Program will be delivered in person and virtually through CCMB’s Centres for Hope in Winnipeg and outside our perimeter. We are so grateful for CCMB’s Paul Albrechtsen Centre for Hope at the Western Manitoba Cancer Centre in Brandon, the first Centre for Hope outside Winnipeg.

Our current vision is big and we are beginning to bring it to life. We are confident that by working together with all our partners, including the primary care community, the future will be strong and bright for all Manitobans.



## UPDATES FROM THE CANCERCARE MANITOBA SCREENING PROGRAMS

### ColonCheck: FIT Turns One!

In June 2023, Manitoba's colorectal cancer screening test switched from the three sample fecal occult blood test (gFOBT) to the single sample fecal immunochemical test (FIT). With this change, FIT distribution and result management (including facilitating follow-up for patients with an abnormal FIT result) was centralized under ColonCheck CancerCare Manitoba. Since June 2023, a lot has happened!



- 87,621 FIT kits were distributed in Manitoba.
- 38,811 FIT tests were successfully completed
- 32,713 provider requests for FIT kits were made.
- 7,298 patients requested their own FIT kit from ColonCheck.
  - \* (94%) of FIT results were normal
  - \* (6%) of FIT results were abnormal
- Approximately 1,600 colonoscopy referrals were made.

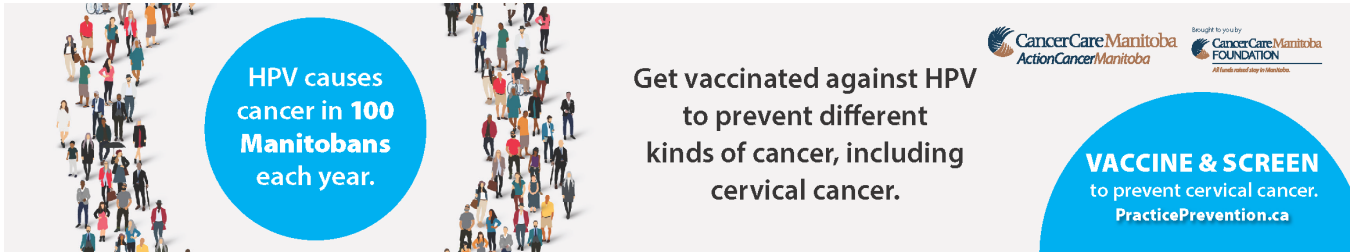
We appreciate your patience as ColonCheck continues to smooth out the process. Note that ColonCheck automatically sends FIT kits to your patients 50-74 years of age when they are due to complete their next test but we encourage you to continue requesting kits for your unscreened or overdue patients using the Fecal Immunochemical Test Requisition Form.

Visit [cancercare.mb.ca/screening/hcp](https://cancercare.mb.ca/screening/hcp) for more information on colorectal cancer screening guidelines and resources.

### Expanding Breast Cancer Screening

In September 2024, the Government of Manitoba announced plans to expand CancerCare Manitoba's breast cancer screening services (BreastCheck). The expansion will happen in a phased approach, starting with increasing capacity for people 50-74, with initial focus on areas, communities and individuals who experience challenges accessing breast cancer screening. Additional appointments will be made available as capacity allows; capacity will depend on the availability of both human resources and equipment across the province.

Future service expansion, including lowering the age of eligibility for screening, is anticipated over the next few years. Please stay tuned for more information and educational resources as they are developed!



### Prevention: HPV Vaccination

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a very common virus that most people will get. Usually, HPV infections go away and cause no harm, but sometimes can persist. HPV infection may develop into cancer. Studies have shown that approximately 99% of cervical cancers and approximately 90% of anal cancers are caused by HPV. Each year in Manitoba, about 65 people are diagnosed with cervical cancer, and 15 will die from the disease.

The good news is that cervical cancer can be eliminated with:

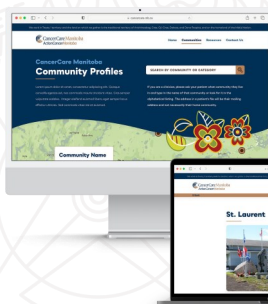
- High HPV vaccine coverage
- High cervical cancer screening participation rate
- Appropriate treatment following an abnormal cervical cancer screening results.

Many young people in Manitoba are getting the HPV vaccine but the vaccine uptake rate is not meeting the 90% target rate set out by the World Health Organization.

Manitoba Health’s ‘once eligible, always eligible’ Immunization Program allows eligible females born on or after January 1, 1997 and eligible males born on or after January 1, 2002 to continue to receive the HPV vaccine at no charge. In May 2023 CancerCare Manitoba piloted a letter campaign to increase vaccination rates; 10,000 letters were sent to unvaccinated eligible females informing them they were eligible to be vaccinated against HPV and how to access the vaccine. The project increased HPV vaccine uptake and we are exploring ways to continue reminder letters in years to come.

## Community Profiles

First Nations • Métis • Inuit



CancerCare Manitoba, in partnership with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit communities, has launched an innovative website to help healthcare professionals create safer and more comprehensive care plans for patients returning to their communities. The Indigenous Community Profiles website is a valuable resource that provides geographical and travel information, as well as details on healthcare and community resources in Indigenous communities.

Visit [ccmbindigenouscommunityprofiles.ca](http://ccmbindigenouscommunityprofiles.ca)

## Cancer Screening Decision Tool for Patient-Provider Conversations

In response to and in consultation with healthcare providers, we developed a flipchart that can be used in provider-patient conversations about cancer screening. Topics include: values and preferences, burden of disease, and program specific test description, eligibility, and access. It is available in a tabletop flipchart format (limited copies), as well as digital format, and can be ordered online from [here](#) or downloaded [here](#) (also found at [www.cancercare.mb.ca/screening/resources](http://www.cancercare.mb.ca/screening/resources)).



recently published resources for healthcare providers:

- [Manitoba Cancer Screening Guidelines](#) (pdf)
- [BreastCheck for Healthcare Providers](#) (pdf)
- [BreastCheck for Healthcare Providers](#) (webpage)
- [ColonCheck for Healthcare Providers](#) (pdf)
- [ColonCheck for Healthcare Providers](#) (webpage)
- [Cervical Cancer Screening Learning Module for Healthcare Providers](#)
- [CervixCheck for Healthcare Providers](#) (webpage)

All of these resources can be found at [www.cancercare.mb.ca/screening/hcp](http://www.cancercare.mb.ca/screening/hcp)

### Updates

To receive updates from CancerCare Manitoba Screening Programs, [sign-up for e-news](#).

### Cancer Screening Modules for Healthcare Providers

Did you know that we have new resources for Healthcare Providers developed in consultation with healthcare providers? Here is a list of the most

## Meet our Indigenous Nurse Navigator

*Chantal Wahteeshkin*



Chantal Wahteeshkin, a recent nursing graduate, is the first Indigenous Nurse Navigator at CancerCare Manitoba (CCMB). Her role provides culturally appropriate support to Indigenous patients, addressing a crucial gap identified by patient feedback. Growing up in a remote community with limited healthcare access, Wahteeshkin understands the challenges Indigenous patients face. She aims to improve their healthcare experiences through shared cultural understanding and open dialogue. As part of the Patient Cancer Referrals and Navigation Services team, she focuses on compassionate, culturally safe care, enhancing CCMB's support for all patients.

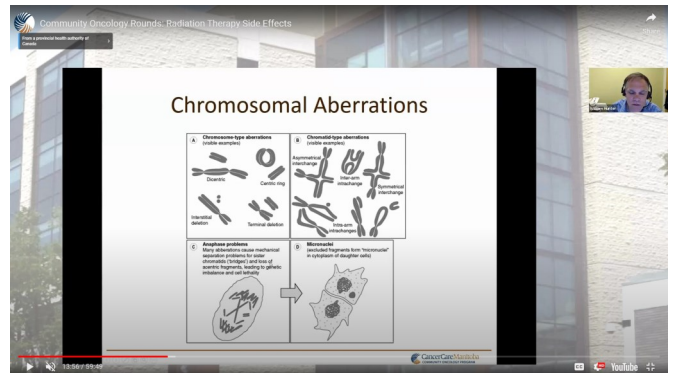
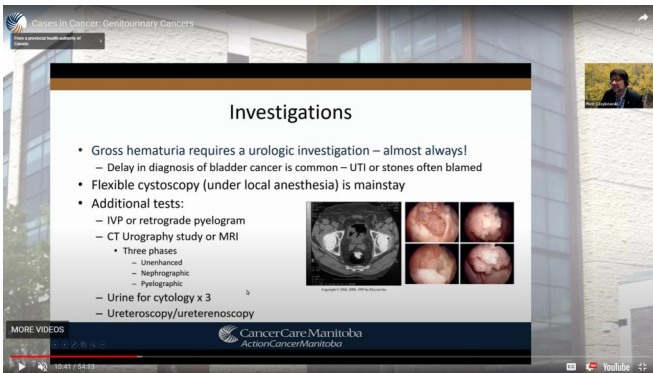
## COMMUNITY ONCOLOGY ROUNDS AND CASES IN CANCER VIDEOS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!

We're excited to share that the Community Oncology Rounds and Cases in Cancer videos are now accessible online. These valuable resources provide insights into the latest developments in oncology, featuring expert discussions, case reviews, and multidisciplinary perspectives.

Whether you're a healthcare professional, researcher, or simply interested in cancer care, these videos offer a behind-the-scenes look at how doctors collaborate,

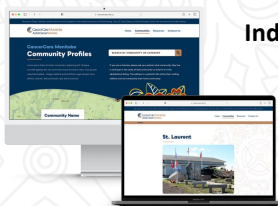
analyze cases, and share expertise in bladder and upper tract cancers.

You can find these videos on the [CancerCare Manitoba website](http://CancerCareManitoba.com). Stay informed and enhance your knowledge with these educational sessions. Don't miss out - explore the videos today!



## Community Profiles

First Nations • Métis • Inuit



### Indigenous Community Profiles - Community Highlights:

**Fox Lake Cree Nation** is approximately 1000 km north of Winnipeg and predominantly speaks Cree. For medical services, the nearest Community Cancer Centre is in Thompson, and the closest radiation facility is in Winnipeg. For more information, call 1-855-740-9322.

**Arviat**, situated in the Kivalliq Region and predominantly inhabited by Inuit people, lies north of Winnipeg. Daily flights to Arviat operate via Rankin Inlet. The primary language spoken is Inuktitut.

Kivalliq Inuit6 Services (KIS), based in Winnipeg, provides Inuktitut interpreters and nursing coordinators who can assist in care planning. For more information, call 204-989-1020.

## 2024 PROVINCIAL CANCER CONFERENCE

### *In Review*

The 2024 Provincial Cancer Care Conference, held on November 14th and 15th, brought together healthcare providers from across Manitoba for a series of educational workshops focused on thoracic malignancies and multidisciplinary approaches to cancer care.

#### *The Patient Voice*

This year's conference saw the integration of research, practice and the patient voice. During an interactive Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) workshop, attendees had the opportunity to hear directly from patient panelists. They shared their personal cancer journeys, offering an understanding to the unique experiences for AYA patients, and sharing how providers may provide person-centered care.

Another key highlight of the conference was the shared keynote session featuring Dr. Kidane and one of his patients. This collaboration highlighted the power of the patient-provider relationship. Dr. Kidane discussed how the patient's self-advocacy played a crucial role in initiating a clinical trial. This trial was designed not only to address the patient's specific needs but also to advance broader research aimed at improving cancer care. The session illustrated how patient-driven advocacy can push the boundaries of medical research, ensuring that the voices of those directly affected by disease are central to the innovation and development of new treatments.

By weaving together personal narratives and clinical expertise, the conference demonstrated how the patient voice can be a driving force in shaping the future of cancer care. The integration of patient experiences into both research and practice ensures that healthcare evolves in ways that are more responsive, personalized, and focused on improving outcomes for all patients.

#### *Sharing Stories of Resiliency & Reconciliation*

Kevin Chief delivered an impactful talk focusing on themes of resilience and reconciliation. He shared several compelling stories, including one about the "Strong Warrior Girls," a group of young Anishinaabe singers who performed the national song of Canada.



This story highlighted the strength and cultural pride of these young girls.

Chief also emphasized the importance of supporting those living on the streets, particularly in ensuring their right to vote. He pointed out the challenges they face, such as lacking identification and access to polling stations, and stressed the need for systemic changes to address these barriers.

#### *OPERA RADIO Trial*

Dr. Kidane shared early findings from the OPERA RADIO trial, in which participants receive 1 of 3 investigative regimens (1) 13 cycles of adjuvant durvalumab + RT (CROSS), (2) 13 cycles of adjuvant durvalumab, or (3) CROSS chemorads. Among the 11 patients enrolled thus far, preliminary results are encouraging, with Dr. Kidane noting "high preservation of quality of life" in comparison to stage-matched patients who receive the standard of care treatment, esophagectomy. Dr. Kidane is committed to advancing esophageal cancer care by placing patient voices and values at the center of his work.





Learn more at [Prevent40ccmb.ca](https://Prevent40ccmb.ca)

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