



How do unattached patients access cancer screening in Ontario?

ColonCancerCheck

Patients without a primary care provider (PCP) can get a fecal immunochemical test (FIT) by calling Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-828-9213. Once a FIT has been ordered, LifeLabs mails the FIT package to the Ontario mailing address chosen by the participant.

If a participant needs follow-up after their initial screening test and does not have a PCP, Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) supports unattached patients using the following process:

- The Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) Contact Centre maintains a list of PCPs who have signed up to take on unattached patients requiring follow-up after an abnormal FIT result, or unattached patients at increased risk of colorectal cancer requiring a screening colonoscopy. The Contact Centre attaches patients to PCPs based on location.
- When the Contact Centre does not have a suitable PCP on the list to match with an unattached patient, Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) works with the appropriate Regional Cancer Program to identify a PCP.

Ontario Breast Screening Program

Unattached participants who meet the [average risk eligibility criteria](#) can access breast cancer screening through self-referral to an OBSP site (i.e., a requisition from a PCP is not required). OBSP sites have processes in place to support follow-up of abnormal results for unattached participants. This includes identifying a PCP to receive the abnormal results and support follow-up through to diagnosis.

Unattached participants who meet the [high risk eligibility criteria](#) must have a requisition from a PCP (family doctor or nurse practitioner) to be referred to the program.

Ontario Cervical Screening Program

Some public health units and community health centres provide cervical screening (currently, the Pap test) to unattached participants.

Ontario Lung Screening Program

People who might be eligible for lung screening through the Ontario Lung Screening Program (OLSP) may self-present (i.e., independently contact an OLSP site to inquire about their eligibility and potential participation in screening). People who self-present to an OLSP site and are deemed eligible for lung screening will need a referral by a doctor or nurse practitioner to be screened. OLSP sites maintain a list of PCPs who have signed up to take on eligible, unattached patients.

Mobile Coaches in the North West and Hamilton Niagara Haldimand and Brant

[Mobile screening coaches](#) screen anyone eligible for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening. The coaches have the following services on board:

- Cervical screening
- Breast cancer screening
- Staff who can support participants to order a FIT

Health Care Connect

People who do not have a doctor or nurse practitioner can register for Health Care Connect at 1-800-445-1822 or visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/find-family-doctor-or-nurse-practitioner#section-1>.