





## Ontario Lung Screening Program Referral Form FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Will everyone who is referred be eligible for lung cancer screening in the Ontario Lung Screening Program (OLSP)?

Not everyone who is referred will be eligible for lung cancer screening in the OLSP.

Determining eligibility is a two-step process. Only people who meet the criteria in steps 1 and 2 will be eligible to get screened for lung cancer through the OLSP.

- In step 1, health care providers refer people who meet the age and smoking history referral inclusion criteria to an OLSP site hospital. People can also self-present (contact the OLSP site hospital on their own) to have the criteria assessed.
- In step 2, an OLSP site hospital screening navigator conducts a risk assessment with anyone who meets the age and smoking history criteria in step 1. The results of the risk assessment in step 2 determine whether someone is eligible to get screened for lung cancer through the OLSP.

When health care providers refer their patients to an OLSP site hospital in step 1, they must complete the OLSP referral form to authorize the use of low-dose computed tomography in case their patient is found to be eligible for the OLSP in step 2. People who self-present to an OLSP site hospital and are found to be eligible in step 2 will still need a referral from a health care provider to participate in lung cancer screening in the OLSP.

### Can I refer people who have used different forms of tobacco or been exposed to second-hand smoke for 20 or more years?

People who have smoked a lot of **cigarettes** for many years may be eligible for lung cancer screening in the OLSP. People who have used other kinds of tobacco, such as cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco or e-cigarettes, are not eligible for lung cancer screening through the OLSP unless they have also smoked a lot of cigarettes. People who have not smoked a lot of cigarettes, but have inhaled second-hand smoke, asbestos and other air pollutants also are not eligible to get screened in the OLSP. This does not mean your patient is at low risk of developing lung cancer.

### What are the next steps after I refer someone?

The OLSP site hospital will contact your patient to arrange a risk assessment appointment with a screening navigator. Anyone who is referred or self-presents for screening does a risk assessment by telephone with the OLSP site hospital screening navigator to determine whether they are eligible for the OLSP.

The risk assessment is done using a risk calculator, which is based on a statistical risk prediction model that gives an estimate of someone's risk (as a percentage) of developing lung cancer in the next six years. The risk assessment considers age and cigarette smoking history, as well as other risk factors, such as body mass index, education, personal history of cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and family history of lung cancer.

People with a two percent or greater risk of developing lung cancer over the next six years are considered eligible to participate in the OLSP.

**People who are eligible for lung cancer screening will be provided with:**

- a discussion with a screening navigator before the low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) scan to allow them to make an informed decision about participating in screening;
- a baseline LDCT scan. The OLSP site hospital will communicate screening results, incidental findings (i.e., findings other than lung nodules) and next steps to referring health care providers and primary care providers (if different);
- a seamless transition for lung diagnostic assessment for investigation of findings that could be cancer;
- smoking cessation support at the OLSP site hospital, including a counselling appointment for at least 10 minutes with a trained smoking cessation counsellor at the LDCT scan visit; and
- navigation support throughout the screening process without any judgement.

You will be notified if someone you refer is not eligible for or decides not to participate in lung cancer screening.

### As a referring health care provider, what are my responsibilities?

**As the referring health care provider, it is your responsibility to:**

- refer only people who meet referral criteria;
- determine whether lung cancer screening is appropriate for your patients based on your assessment of their overall health – screening may not be appropriate for people with conditions or illnesses that could limit their ability to participate in or benefit from lung cancer screening;
- ensure the appropriate follow-up of incidental findings (i.e., findings other than lung nodules) on an LDCT scan; and
- notify the OLSP about whether a patient should stop screening.

### Please direct questions about patient referrals to the OLSP site hospital in your area.

Please visit [cancercareontario.ca/lungscreeninglocations](http://cancercareontario.ca/lungscreeninglocations) to get the contact information for the OLSP site hospitals you can refer patients to.

**For general inquiries:**

Email: [cancerinfo@ontariohealth.ca](mailto:cancerinfo@ontariohealth.ca)  
Phone: 1-866-662-9233

For more information about the OLSP, visit [cancercareontario.ca/highrisklungscreening](http://cancercareontario.ca/highrisklungscreening)