

A Guide to Cancer Services in Manitoba For Health Care Professionals



NOTE: All questions of an emergent nature about the care of a cancer patient should be directed to the medical or radiation oncologist on call 24 hrs a day at the two Winnipeg teaching hospitals: HSC 787-2071 or St. Boniface 237-2053.

1. Provincial Screening Programs



Breast Cancer

- **BreastCheck (formerly The Manitoba Breast Screening Program)** offers screening mammograms to women from age 50+ usually every two years.
- Women receive a letter at age 50 and reminders when they are due again
- Doctors can order this test for women younger than age 50 at diagnostic mammography sites if indicated
- Permanent screening sites in Winnipeg, Brandon, Thompson and Boundary Trails
- Mobile screening mammography services 92 other communities in Manitoba on a rotating schedule, and will also accept younger women with a doctor's referral at rural and northern locations (not city mobile sites)
- Program able to refer women with abnormal screening mammograms directly to MB diagnostic centres, including the Breast Health Centre in Winnipeg for further assessment with doctor's permission.
- Symptomatic women of any age should be referred to a diagnostic centre
- Many patient and physician resources at 788-8000 or 1-800-903-9290 or order on line at www.cancercare.mb.ca/breasthealthresources



Photo courtesy of Peter van Bregg

Cervical Cancer

- **CervixCheck** maintains a population-based Registry of all Pap tests (since 2001) and colposcopy reports (since 2003)
- Monitors follow-up of all abnormal Pap test results
- Sends letters to women who are overdue for a Pap test
- Develops, distributes and promotes provincial screening guidelines
- Increases provider Pap test competency with production and distribution of Pap Test Learning Module
- Helps increase access to Pap tests by partnering with primary care to offer Pap clinics to women
- Screening Guidelines: Pap tests start 3 years after sexual activity; screen every 2 years; cessation of screening at age of 70 with history of three Negative Pap test results within the previous 10 years
- Cervical screening histories are available by calling 788-8626 or 1-866-616-8805
- Several public and provider resources are available for free, and can be found at www.TellEveryWoman.ca.

Colorectal Cancer

- **ColonCheck** is inviting men and women of average risk ages 50 - 74 to be screened with the Hemoccult II Sensa Fecal Occult Blood test (FOBT).
- The FOBT kits are distributed through direct mail, BreastCheck, primary care clinics and health fairs.
- Tests are returned by mail to Cadham Provincial Lab with Family Physicians notified of results.
- For individuals who complete the program test, follow-up colonoscopy of abnormals can be coordinated by ColonCheck.
- Family Physicians should continue to screen average risk patients at least every 2 years with FOBT.
- Resources and info at 788-8635 or 1-866-744-8961 or www.coloncheckmb.ca

2. Genetic Counselling for Inherited Cancer Susceptibility

- Cancer genetics counselling services are available at Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg for those individuals with a personal and/or family history of cancer that is suggestive of an inherited predisposition
- Call 787-8860 or 787-2494 to discuss suitability of referrals
- Referrals forms for a Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Clinic available at www.wrha.mb.ca/community/bhc/appointment.php

3. Cancer Diagnosis

- Surgeons and other specialists are the main providers of biopsies needed to establish a tissue diagnosis for patients with suspected cancer
- CancerCare Manitoba offers the following surgical services for work-up of suspected cancer:

A. Manitoba Prostate Centre

- Located at CCMB at 675 McDermot Avenue in Winnipeg
- Accepts referrals for diagnosis and treatment of men with benign and malignant prostate disease
- Staff of urologists, radiation oncologists, nurses, clinical nurse specialist, social worker.
- Services on site: Diagnosis (TRUS and biopsy); cystoscopy, assistance with treatment decision making; prostate brachytherapy; sexuality counselling
- Fax referrals to 786-0637. Phone 787-4460 for more information

B. WRHA Breast Health Centre

- Located at 100-400 Tache Avenue in Winnipeg
- Accepts referrals for diagnosis and treatment of women and men with breast abnormalities (NOT for screening) *and* accepts referrals from the breast screening program of women with abnormal mammograms
- Staff on site include: breast surgeons, nurses, diagnostic imaging radiologists, technologists, social worker, dietician, physiotherapist/ lymphedema therapists and administrative staff
- Services on site include: diagnostic ultrasound and mammography; excisional, core needle and stereotactic biopsies; assistance with treatment decision making, surgical, dietary and psychosocial resources; physiotherapy and lymphedema clinic
- Fax referrals to **231-3839** or call 235-3906 or 1-888-501-5219
- Information and referral forms available at www.wrha.mb.ca/bhc



C. CCMB Surgical Clinics

General Surgical Oncology

- Fax Referrals to 786-0621
- GI endoscopy and lymph node (head & neck, axillary and inguinal) biopsies for diagnostic purposes
- Assessment and treatment of soft tissue masses (suspected sarcoma), melanoma, gastric cancer and advanced pelvic/retroperitoneal malignancies (including recurrent rectal cancer)
- Assessment and discussion for prophylactic GI surgery (includes gastric and colon cancer)

Gynecologic Oncology

- Fax Referrals to 786-0621
- For confirmed or suspected gynecologic malignancies

Head and Neck Oncology

- Fax Referrals to 786-0621
- For suspicious head and neck masses or symptoms
- CTs on HSC machine preferred if ordered at time of referral

Plastic Surgery

- Breast Reconstruction (immediate [with primary surgery] or delayed)
- Long waits for delayed reconstruction

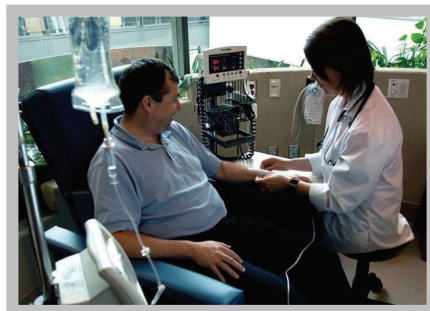


4. Referring Patients to CancerCare Manitoba

- FAX all referrals to CCMB Referral Office (204) 786-0621
- Questions about making a referral? CCMB Referral Office phone number is (204) 787-2176.
- CCMB Referral Guide (with forms/needed test results) can be found at www.cancercare.mb.ca on the home page under the “referral” tab
- All referrals are triaged and assigned to the appropriate “disease site group” cancer specialist and /or haematologist best suited to the patient’s problem—no need to specify a certain physician.
- Clinics are held at two sites: **MacCharles** (675 McDermot Avenue) and **St. Boniface** (located in St. Boniface General Hospital, 409 Tache Avenue)
- Not all services offered at both sites
- **Private** hematologists /oncologists work separately from CCMB and receive referrals directly at their respective sites: Dr. Pat Harris (Grace General Hospital, Concordia General Hospital, Manitoba Clinic); Dr. Ian Maxwell (Victoria General Hospital); Dr. Jack Lezack (Seven Oaks General Hospital, Manitoba Clinic)

5. Cancer Treatment

- Chemotherapy is given at both Winnipeg CCMB sites, at all four community hospitals, and in 16 rural Manitoba hospital out patient clinics. These 16 sites are part of the Community Cancer Programs Network (CCPN) (See www.cancercare.mb.ca for sites)
- Patients are treated in the CCPN sites by specially trained FPOs (Family Physicians in Oncology), nurses and pharmacists after initial assessment and referral by a Winnipeg based oncologist/hematologist or urologist. The care of the patient is maintained through a shared care model and a shared electronic health record.
- Radiation therapy is given only at the MacCharles (HSC) site of CCMB in Winnipeg. Radiation therapy is available at the Western Manitoba Cancer Centre in Brandon.



6. Supportive and Psychosocial Care

- CCMB's *Patient and Family Support Services* and other cancer treatment sites have psychosocial clinicians (social workers, psychologists, spiritual health specialists and psychiatrists) available free of charge for individual, couple, family and group counseling for patients and family/friends
- Call Patient and Family Support Services, **787-2109**, to discuss questions and referrals *and/or* visit the CCMB website at www.cancercare.mb.ca.
- Services are available throughout the cancer trajectory including pre-diagnosis through treatment, post-treatment, survivorship, end of life and bereavement
- Most services can be accessed via telephone and/or TeleHealth for those living outside Winnipeg. In addition, some rural Community Cancer Programs have psychosocial clinicians.
- A Speech-Language Pathologist can help with problems with speech, language, voice and eating/swallowing.
- Dietitians are available to address nutrition questions and issues before, during and after cancer treatment.
- New head coverings and wigs are for loan free of charge, as well as other help with appearance related side effects. These can also be mailed from the Guardian Angel Caring Room (787-4180).
- The Patient and Family Resource Centre (787-4357 or toll free 1-866-561-1026), is a comfortable meeting place where staff and volunteers help patients/families access information and resources. Material can be mailed. The Breast Cancer Centre of Hope (691 Wolseley Avenue. 788-8080 or toll-free 1-888-660-4866) and Manitoba Prostate Centre (787-4460) offer specific services in those disease areas.



7. Follow-up Care


- Patients with early stage cancers will usually be discharged after treatment to their FP for follow-up, along with guidelines for follow-up care
- Patients may continue to access psychosocial support at CCMB and be referred back to CCMB at Fax **786-0621** if problems arise.

8. Palliative Care in Manitoba

- Palliative care physicians are available to help you on the phone. Page the doctor on call through St. Boniface Hospital at **237-2053**
- Pain and Symptom Management Clinic consultations are available for cancer patients at both CCMB sites and through videoconferencing. Fax referrals to **786-0621**
- Every rural regional health authority (RHA) has responsibility for providing palliative care services. Each RHA has a Palliative Care Coordinator. Visit www.gov.mb.ca/health/pcdap/index.html for more information and to see a list of regional coordinators.
- The Palliative Care Drug Access Program is a provincial program that provides deductible-free drug therapy for all registered palliative care patients
- The WRHA Palliative Care Program has 45 designated beds, 16 Hospice beds, and an extensive home support program. This program provides services to patients registered on the program as well as consultative services to support patients with life limiting illnesses. For more information on the program and referral forms, please go to www.wrha.mb.ca/prog/palliative

9. UPCON: Uniting Primary Care and ONcology

- CCMB Program aimed at improving collaboration between Family Physicians (FPs) and the cancer system
- Network of over 40 rural and urban clinics with a Lead FP interested in cancer and in being an informal resource to their colleagues PLUS access to the cancer system EMR
- Call the **UPCON HelpLine** for questions about any aspect of cancer or how to navigate the cancer system (204) 226-2262 (CCM-CCMB). Open Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm
- Education events, newsletters, scholarships
- For more information call 787-1229 or visit www.cancercare.mb.ca



Got a Cancer Question?

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226-2262 (CCM-CCMB)
8:30-4:30 Monday-Friday