

CANCER *talk*

CONNECTING WITH MANITOBA'S PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS

UPwords

› NETWORK NEWS FOR PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS

Why is UpWords in Cancer Talk?

In this issue of CancerTalk, we are piloting something new! To streamline our information distribution, we are incorporating the information and updates in our UPWords e-newsletter into our CancerTalk newsletter in a dedicated 'UPWords' section. That way, readers can find all information in one place and maybe check out something new in the process!

We are open to hearing from our readers about whether UPWords and CancerTalk combined works for you.

Feel free to send your feedback by email to CCMBPrimaryCareEducation@cancercare.mb.ca.

PROVINCIAL CANCER REFERRAL & NAVIGATION Important Information for Healthcare Providers

Central Referral Office Phone: 1-844-320-4545

The **Fax number remains the same at 204-786-0621** for **ALL** internal and external referrals to the Central Referral Office.

The phone and fax numbers for **Winnipeg Navigation** remain as follows:

Phone: 1-855-837-5400

Fax: 204-235-0690

SAVE THE DATE

Blood Disorders Day 2023
Friday, June 2, 2023

See our poster inside for more details.

NEW CANCER SCREENING RESOURCE

Check out page 3 for more information about the resource and how to order for your clinic.

THE NAVIGATOR

CCMB provides support groups and services to assist patients and families through their cancer journey.

Click [here](#) for more.



Message from CCMB President and CEO

Cancer patients and their loved ones who walk through the doors of CancerCare Manitoba can know that research is an integral part of what we do, and they can be assured of the best treatment available in our comprehensive cancer centre where scientists pursue state-of-the-art research.

During the pandemic, some of our researchers refocused their efforts on COVID-19 to better understand the impact of the pandemic on the cancer experience and cancer control in our province. Two of these researchers are featured in this newsletter.

CancerCare Manitoba is proud of its rich history and dedication to pursuing scientific discovery to improve patient care for over nine decades. Our founders had the vision and knew the importance of research to advancing care and improving outcomes. Today, we continue to build on the foundation that was laid so many years ago.



We have just launched a new research document - [Research at CancerCare Manitoba, Care through Discovery – Past, Present, Future](#) which provides a historical to present-day overview of cancer and blood disorder research in Manitoba. This is the

first time this rich history has been captured in one location. The document also describes the excellent opportunity our current environment presents to build on and further expand our research legacy.

As the provincial cancer authority, CancerCare Manitoba is responsible for cancer control and the delivery of cancer services in our province, working closely with our health partners. Our responsibility includes carrying out research in cancer and blood disorders, which informs the care we provide and ensures evidence-based, high-quality care and treatment.

CancerCare Manitoba Research Institute is the only provincial research institute exclusively dedicated to improving cancer control and outcomes in Manitoba through research and innovation.

I am proud of our progress and I am enthusiastic about our goal: to be one of the best research institutes in Canada. Scientific excellence and the dedication of our scientists are inspiring as we work to bring advanced discovery to patients. This is a very exciting time for research at CancerCare Manitoba.

Dr. Sri Navaratnam MBBS PhD FRCPC
President and Chief Executive Officer,
CancerCare Manitoba
Professor, Department of Internal Medicine,
Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, University of
Manitoba

CANCERCARE MANITOBA PREVENTION & SCREENING

ColonCheck

With the support of the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC), ColonCheck provided a second chance to participate in colorectal cancer screening to Manitobans due for screening. From November 12, 2021 to December 31, 2022, the program sent out approximately 14,500 fecal occult blood test (FOBT) kits, selecting individuals ages 58 - 63 living in communities with low colorectal cancer screening participation rates. To date, the participation rate is 18.5% and a positivity rate of 4.6%. Individuals completing an FOBT through this project are now incorporated into ColonCheck operations and integrated into routine screening invitation schedules.

ColonCheck supports healthcare providers in accessing colorectal cancer screening for their patients. If you would like to request a test be sent to your unscreened or underscreened patient, complete the Fecal Occult Blood Test form at <https://www.cancercare.mb.ca/screening/hcp>




BreastCheck

Early detection of breast cancer increases treatment options and typically provides better outcomes. Eligible Manitobans can make appointments by calling 1-855-95-CHECK. No referral is required.

BreastCheck has four permanent clinics in Brandon, Boundary Trails, Thompson, and Winnipeg. Also, the BreastCheck Mobile continues to travel throughout the province. To review upcoming clinics, visit our website at <https://www.cancercare.mb.ca/screening/info/breast#clinics>

New Resource!

Are you looking for a resource to give your patients to continue the cancer screening conversation? We have created a bilingual (English/French) 3x7" sheet that comes in pads of 50. The resource describes age requirements, tests, and access points for each cancer screening test. To view the English/French resource and to order pads for your clinic, visit our website at <https://www.cancercare.mb.ca/screening/resources>



Cancer Screening

Most women age 50-74 should have a screening mammogram every 2 years. Trans, non-binary, and gender diverse people may also need regular screening.

Call BreastCheck at 1-855-95-CHECK to make an appointment.

Most women age 21-69 who have ever had sexual contact should have a Pap test every 3 years. Trans, non-binary, and gender diverse people with a cervix should be screened regularly.

Make an appointment with your healthcare provider or visit CervixCheck at [cancercare.mb.ca/cervixcheck](https://www.cancercare.mb.ca/cervixcheck) to find a clinic near you.

Most people age 50-74 should do a colon cancer screening test every 2 years.

Visit ColonCheck at [cancercare.mb.ca/coloncheck](https://www.cancercare.mb.ca/coloncheck) to request a kit.

[cancercare.mb.ca/screening](https://www.cancercare.mb.ca/screening)
1-855-95-CHECK

G-TEAR-OFF-EF 2022.12



Dr. Mac Thiessen, MD, MN(iis), FRCPC
Medical Oncologist,
CancerCare Manitoba

A CATALYST FOR DISCOVERY: THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE CANCER EXPERIENCE

I think most of us would struggle to count on one hand the number of good things that have come into our lives as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Experiencing adversity doesn't mean that individuals or communities will cease to have opportunities that they are grateful for. At the same time, the pandemic has certainly been one of those experiences where silver linings are often hard to identify. However, one positive thing that did come out of the COVID-19 pandemic was an opportunity to better understand the experience of living with cancer and how the healthcare system can evolve to improve it.

When attempting to understand what people experience, comparing and contrasting the challenges they encounter in different settings is a powerful tool. The pandemic has provided an excellent opportunity for this as many changes to cancer care were implemented rapidly, resulting in patients and informal caregivers experiencing care in both the normal and not-so-normal world. Early on in the pandemic, we initiated a research study to not miss the opportunity to explore these contrasting experiences. In this study, a total of 33 patients and six informal caregivers were interviewed virtually. This work resulted in a cancer experience theory, grounded in the experience of living with cancer both before and during the pandemic. This theory provides insights into what negatively and positively impacts the cancer experience, including how to provide optimal virtual care.

This work was also associated with a quantitative survey exploring patient satisfaction and coordination of care. In total, 154 survey responses were collected. We found that patients

with poorer functional status (i.e., ECOG \geq 1) reported worse care coordination and younger patients (i.e., \leq 59) were less satisfied with care.

We continue to dive into the patient experience to better understand what the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us about how to improve the cancer journey. Through CIHR-funded research, we are working to quantify how much time and money virtual care saves those living with cancer in Manitoba. The work we have completed and will complete in the future is expected to help guide health services delivery in a way that improves the fit between the needs of those living with cancer and what we offer as healthcare providers.

For more, please check out:

[Fit theory: A cancer experience grounded theory emerging from semi-structured interviews with cancer patients and informal caregivers in Manitoba, Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

[Patient-reported satisfaction with care and care coordination: Results from an online survey conducted in Manitoba, Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic. | Journal of Clinical Oncology \(ascopubs.org\)](#)



Dr. Kathleen Decker, PhD

Senior Scientist, CancerCare Manitoba Research Institute
Associate Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences,
University of Manitoba

MEASURING THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON CANCER CONTROL IN MANITOBA, CANADA

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented effect on cancer control in Manitoba. Measuring the impact of the pandemic using real-world data is the goal of a program of research at CancerCare Manitoba Research Institute being led by Dr. Kathleen Decker. The study's multi-disciplinary team includes epidemiologists, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, surgeons, biostatisticians, programmers/analysts, and a Patient Advisory Committee. We want to learn from the pandemic to help make our cancer care system better and more resilient.

Our results so far have focused on the impact of cancer screening, diagnoses, and treatment. We found that cancer screening programs in Manitoba were significantly affected at the start of the pandemic. However, screening programs and primary health care providers quickly adapted and within six months after the start of the pandemic, the number of screening mammograms, Pap tests, and fecal occult blood tests rebounded to expected pre-pandemic levels.

We also saw a substantial decrease in new cancer diagnoses immediately after the implementation of COVID-19 restrictions. This was due to the impact on screening programs highlighted above, lower levels of primary healthcare use by the public, reductions in diagnostic services, and changes to the provision of surgery.

However, by the summer of 2020, there was no longer a significant difference in the number of cancer diagnoses compared to what was expected in the absence of the pandemic. The number of cancer surgeries also decreased after the first set of public health restrictions were introduced as well as during the second wave in

November 2020. Similar to the number of cancer cases, by the summer of 2020, surgery reached pre-pandemic levels and the backlog that occurred at the start of the pandemic has steadily decreased over time.

We also found that the number of radiotherapy fractions decreased; this was due to the implementation of hypo-fractionation regimens in accordance with the latest clinical trials in which radiation is given over a shorter period than standard radiotherapy. Importantly, we found that the number of first radiotherapy visits and the number of chemotherapy visits were not impacted by the pandemic.

Lastly, the overall number of visits to CancerCare Manitoba did not change but the number of in-person visits decreased by one-half. These were replaced by virtual visits. Overall, our research has found that oncology care in Manitoba rapidly adapted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic with an emphasis on maintaining high standards of care and accessibility while implementing procedures to protect patients and staff. We are now examining the impact of the pandemic on diagnostic tests, survival, and the time and travel distance saved because of virtual visits. We look forward to sharing these results soon.

More information on this research is available here:

<https://doi.org/10.3390/currncol28040269>

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpmed.2022.106961>

Dr. Decker and the study team would like to thank CancerCare Manitoba Foundation, Research Manitoba, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for supporting this research.



FOR
Health Professionals

HYBRID CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2023

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Registration 8:00 AM

- › *Featuring local faculty*
- › *Available in person at the Basic Medical Sciences Building, University of Manitoba and by Zoom*

TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

- › SPEP and Myeloma: "A PEP Talk on Myeloma"
- › Save Our Cells! Pre-operative Anemia – Investigation and Management
- › D-Dimer: When to Order, How to Interpret, and What to Do About it
- › When to Suspect an Immunodeficiency in a Child?
- › Ask the Experts! Bring your cases to discuss with a local hematologist

Registration and Information:

cpd-umanitoba.com/events/blood-disorders-day-2023/





2022 - 2023

Professional Development Calendar

Cancer Education for Health Care Professionals

Date	Event	Topic	Location & Time
October 18 & 25, 2022	Training	Cancer Screening and CervixCheck Competency Training Dr. Sarah Kean, Lesley Baldry	Click here for more information and to sign up for the waitlist
October 19, 2022	Community Oncology Rounds	Treatment of Sarcoma Dr. Shantanu Banerji, Dr. Saranya Kakumanu, Dr. David Perrin	8:00-9:00 am Zoom Register here
October 28, 2022	Cases in Cancer	Lymphoma & Adolescents and Young Adults Dr. Pamela Skrabek, Ian Scott	8:00-9:00 am Zoom Register here
November 17 & 18, 2022	Provincial Cancer Care Conference	See CancerCare Manitoba's website for details	Victoria Inn Hotel and Convention Centre
December 7, 2022	Community Oncology Rounds	Systemic Therapies for Lung Cancer Dr. Susan Green	8:00-9:00 am Zoom Register here
January 18, 2023	Cases in Cancer	Liver and Pancreatic Cancer: Journey Throughout Palliative Care Dr. Robin Visser, Stephanie Lelond	8:00-9:00 am Zoom Register here
February 15, 2023	Community Oncology Rounds	Head & Neck Cancer: Speech and Language Pathology Dr. Craig Harlos, Dr. Ahmet Leylek, Leslie Sarchuk	8:00-9:00 am Zoom Register here
February 28 & March 1, 2023	Training	Cancer Screening and CervixCheck Competency Training Dr. Sarah Kean, Lesley Baldry	Click here for more information and to sign up for the waitlist
March 3, 2023	Cases in Cancer	Upper GI Cancers: Stomach Dr. Marianne Krahn	8:00-9:00 am Zoom Register here
April 5, 2023	Interdisciplinary Rounds	Anesthesiology, Surgery, and Oncology	8:00-9:00 am Zoom Link to come
April 26, 2023	Community Oncology Rounds	Liver Cancer Dr. Vallerie Gordon, Dr. Maged Nashed	8:00-9:00 am Zoom Register here
May 5, 2023	Cases in Cancer	Melanoma: Biopsy Techniques, New Treatments, and Follow-Up Dr. Justin Rivard, Dr. Debjani Grenier	8:00-9:00 am Zoom Register here
May 9 & 10, 2023	Training	Cancer Screening and CervixCheck Competency Training Dr. Sarah Kean, Lesley Baldry	Click here for more information and to sign up for the waitlist

To request an In-Office Education session, email CCMBPrimaryCareEducation@cancercare.mb.ca

MyCare Noona Patient App

Communicate online with your health care team.

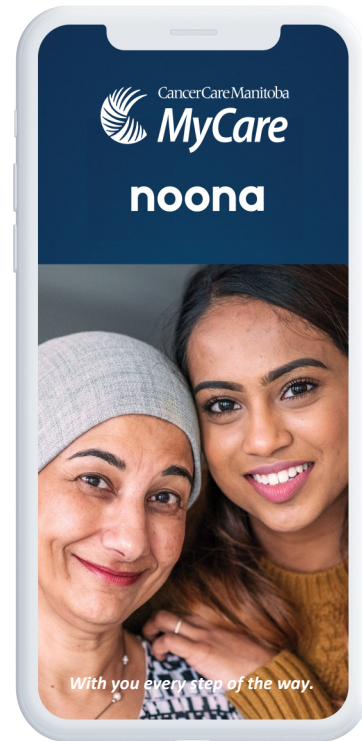
CancerCare Manitoba has implemented MyCare using the Noona app in clinics province-wide.

Noona is an app designed for patients to virtually and securely connect with your care team.

Noona allows patients to:

- Send messages to their care team
- View appointments
- Received messages, CCMB announcements
- Respond to questionnaires between visits
- Use a personal diary

For more information, visit cancercare.mb.ca/patient-family/noona



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www.cancercare.mb.ca