

World Lymphoma Awareness Day

By Diane Lawless

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World Lymphoma Awareness Day (WLAD) is held on September 15 every year and is a day dedicated to raising awareness of lymphoma, an increasingly common form of cancer. It is a global initiative hosted by the Lymphoma Coalition.

Dr. Pam Skrabek, a hematologist and chair of the lymphoproliferative disease site group at CancerCare Manitoba shares this message:

World Lymphoma Awareness Day is held annually and is an opportunity to raise understanding and awareness of this cancer.

Lymphoma is a cancer of white blood cells that starts in lymph glands or lymph cells in the body. Overall, it is the sixth most common cancer in Canada, and thousands are diagnosed every year. It is one of the most common cancers in children and young adults.

Sometimes there are no signs or symptoms, other times individuals are severely ill and need hospitalization. As a result, this is cancer that takes longer to recognize and diagnose. If you notice changes in your body or skin, speak to your healthcare team right away.

Over the years, CancerCare Manitoba has worked to educate primary care about suspicion and diagnosis of lymphoma and provide the right steps promptly while providing patient support. This is something that needs ongoing efforts, particularly as the pandemic influences all aspects of health care in our province.

To learn more about World Lymphoma Awareness Day or the signs and symptoms of lymphoma, visit World Lymphoma Awareness Day (<https://lymphomacoalition.org/world-lymphoma-awareness-day/>)

Dr. Pam Skrabek

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