

November 2013

Dear Colleagues, Friends and Family:

DID YOU KNOW?

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in Ontario and the third most common cancer diagnosed in the province. ColonCancerCheck and Hamilton Health Sciences aims to reduce deaths from colorectal cancer.



DO YOU HAVE:

A parent, brother or sister who has been diagnosed with Colon Cancer?

If you answered **“YES”** to the above question, here’s the *bottom line*:

- ✓ You are eligible for the Ontario Colorectal Cancer Screening Program if you are **aged above 50 years or if you’re within 10 years of age of when your family member was diagnosed**. So, if a father was diagnosed with Colorectal Cancer at age 55, his children should have a colonoscopy screening at age 45.
- ✓ **Colorectal screening saves lives!** 9 out of 10 cases of colorectal cancer can be treated successfully when found early.

If you or someone you know would like to take advantage of the program, **it’s easy!**

- ✓ Obtain a referral form by calling Deborah Ciccarelli at (905) 521-2100, ext. 75352. Deborah will send the form to your family physician.
- ✓ If you and your family physician both decide that colonoscopy screening is appropriate for you, your physician will complete the referral and you will be contacted with an appointment for both a consultation and colonoscopy in the same visit.
- ✓ Screening Colonoscopies will be offered on weekdays in the Endoscopy Unit at McMaster University Medical Centre (MUMC) and on designated days at Juravinski Hospital. Procedures will be performed by our experienced Gastroenterologists or General Surgeons. Booking times are less than 3 weeks.

Hamilton Health Sciences has worked hard since 2007 to expand access to colonoscopy screenings in our community. In order to ensure we maintain our excellent service and reputation within the community, Hamilton Health Sciences is committed to offering high quality colonoscopies. **We are dedicated to ensuring the health of our employees and their families** and it is our hope that all of us can extend awareness of this essential program into our communities.

Thank you for your continued support.

Jeanette Bulgin

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