

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 location. People can also self-present (contact the OLSP location on their own) to be assessed.
- **In step 2**, an OLSP location will contact the person and conduct a risk assessment for 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 someone to an OLSP location in step 1, they must complete the OLSP referral form to authorize the use of low-dose computed tomography in case that person is found to be eligible for the OLSP in step 2. People who self-present to an OLSP location and are found to be eligible in step 2 will still need a referral from a health care provider before they can participate in lung cancer screening.

Can I refer people who have used vapes, marijuana, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes or been exposed to second-hand smoke for 20 or more years?

People who have used vapes, marijuana, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, or been exposed to second-hand smoke are not eligible for lung cancer screening through the Ontario Lung Screening Program (OLSP) at this time unless they have also smoked a lot of commercial tobacco (i.e., cigarettes, cigars, loose tobacco, pipes or bidi/beedi). The OLSP will continue to monitor the evidence and may make updates to its scope in the future. Only people who have smoked a lot of commercial tobacco for many years may be eligible for the OLSP because commercial tobacco smoking is the biggest risk factor for lung cancer. In Ontario, it is estimated that commercial tobacco smoking accounts for more than 70 per cent of lung cancer cases and it is commonly reported to account for as many as 85 per cent of new cases. By contrast, people who have been exposed to second-hand smoke have a much lower risk of getting lung cancer than people who have smoked a lot of commercial tobacco. If someone has lung cancer symptoms, see the [Ontario Health \(Cancer Care Ontario\) lung cancer diagnosis pathway](#) for more information on recommended next steps.

How is lung cancer risk calculated?

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 commercial tobacco 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 per cent or greater risk of developing lung cancer over the next six years are considered eligible to participate in the OLSP.

What are the next steps if the patient is eligible for lung screening?

People who are eligible for lung cancer screening will have:

- 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, and the OLSP location 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 from the OLSP location, including a counselling appointment for at least 10 minutes with a trained smoking cessation counsellor, 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

What if someone I refer is not eligible for lung cancer screening in the OLSP?

If the person you referred is not eligible for lung cancer screening, you can re-refer them in three years to have their risk re-assessed.

If the person's previous risk score was 1.00 to 1.99 per cent and they experience any of the following changes, you can re-refer them for re-assessment at the time of the change:

- started smoking again (if they had quit)
- diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- identified a new family history of lung cancer

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 the patient 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 actionable incidental findings (i.e., findings other than lung nodules) on an LDCT scan, and;
- notify the OLSP if the patient should stop screening

Please direct questions about patient referrals to the OLSP location in your area.

To contact the OLSP at Health Sciences North (HSN) in Sudbury, please call 705-523-7301 or toll-free at 1-844-703-0164.

Please visit cancercareontario.ca/lungscreeninglocations to get the contact information for the OLSP locations you can refer patients to.

For general inquiries:

Email: cancerinfo@ontariohealth.ca

Phone: 1-866-662-9233

For more information about the OLSP, visit cancercareontario.ca/highrisklungscreening

Need this information in an accessible format?

1-877-280-8538, TTY 1-800-855-0511, info@ontariohealth.ca

Document disponible en français en contactant info@ontariohealth.ca