

Cancer Care Ontario

Action Cancer Ontario

May 14, 2013

Dear IHF Quality Lead:

Today Cancer Care Ontario announced the findings of a comprehensive study comparing three different types of breast screening technologies used in Ontario. The outcome of the study was that, with regard to mammography, digital direct radiography (DR) and screen film are significantly more effective than digital computed radiography (CR) at detecting breast cancer.

As a result of the findings, CCO made a recommendation to the Ontario government to transition all mammography with CR technology to DR technology in order to maintain its commitment to continuous quality improvement to cancer screening in Ontario. To support this recommendation, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care is investing in the transition of all CR mammography to DR mammography in the province, with full implementation expected to be completed as soon as possible. We will be actively working with you to ensure women have access to the most effective equipment available.

Attached is a toolkit to ensure you are prepared to respond to any questions you may receive regarding the transition:

- FAQs
 - Public
 - Mammography clinics
 - Providers
- Fact Sheet
- News Release
- Backgrounder

You are critical to the delivery of high quality breast cancer screening in Ontario. We would ask for your support during this transition period to ensure colleagues, peers and women receive accurate information about mammography in Ontario. We believe clinics are best placed to have the conversation with their clients regarding the choices available to them. Therefore in all of our public facing communications we will be directing women to contact the clinic where they were last screened to find out what type of mammography technology they were last screened with and their choices regarding their next screening appointment.

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For those sites that are currently doing mammography with CR technology, they will receive information from CCO regarding communication to women and next steps regarding replacement of equipment.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support. Ontario has one of the best cancer systems in the world these changes underscore our collective efforts to continue to provide high quality care for patients.

Sincerely,



Linda Rabeneck MD MPH FRCPC
VP, Prevention & Cancer Control
Cancer Care Ontario



Derek Muradali MD FRCPC
Radiologist-in-Chief, Ontario Breast Screening Program
Cancer Care Ontario