FAQ - Physicians referring to the Nurse Performed Flexible Sigmoidoscopy project for Colorectal Cancer Screening

How do I refer patients to this pilot project?

Referral forms are available from the project coordinator at each pilot site

Please complete the form and fax to 519-749-6941

How do I explain the procedure to patients?

Once the patient is referred to the program, the coordinator will contact the patient and provide them with in depth education. There is a patient information booklet available for basic information that you can give to the patient prior to their appointment.

What patients should be referred for flexible sigmoidoscopy testing?

Flexible sigmoidoscopy is a method for screening for colorectal cancer for average risk individuals 50 years or older. Patients are eligible if they have

- No family history of colorectal cancer
- No history of inflammatory bowel disease
- No history of large bowel symptoms such as rectal bleeding
- No previous polyps or history of colorectal cancer.

What is the waiting time to access these tests?

The program is new and waiting times will change as the program develops. However at this time we are booking patients for test dates in 2-3 weeks.

Will this project impact on current endoscopy suite times?

Each pilot site did a readiness assessment to determine if they had appropriate resources including physical space and supports necessary to be considered for the pilot project. A clinic to provide screening with flexible sigmoidoscopy for colorectal cancer will be established at each site; an endoscopy suite is not needed.

How will I hear about my patient’s test results?

Information will be faxed to physicians to inform them of test results by clinic staff. Physicians can then advise their patients of what was found during the procedure and the recommended follow-up.

When do I recommend flexible sigmoidoscopy over FOBT?

For some patients flexible sigmoidoscopy may present a more acceptable alternative than FOBT due to personal preferences. FOBT needs to be repeated every two years while the screening interval for flexible sigmoidoscopy (if the initial exam is negative) is every five years.

Can a patient call the site directly for an appointment?

Mechanisms are being developed for patients to access flexible sigmoidoscopy screening directly, in much the same way they can access other cancer screening programs such as breast cancer screening. However, at this point referrals from primary care providers are required.

How can I obtain more information about this project?

The project coordinator is Nicole Menard and can be reached at 519-749-6578 extension 4046.