Implementing Ontario’s CRC Screening Program: The First 10 years

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Ontario 14.7 M

Canada 37.7 M
CRC Screening in Ontario

- 1990s - gFOBT RCTs
- 2001 - Canadian Task Force
- 2004 - Ministry-funded gFOBT pilot
- 2005 - Funding request to Ministry
- 2007 - Funded
- 2008 - Public launch
Ontario introduces $193 M colon cancer screening program
Minister of Health, George Smitherman
January 23, 2007
ColonCancerCheck Launch

March 14, 2008
Organized Screening Program

- Defined target population
- Invitations to screen
- Timely access
- Quality assurance
- Tracking of outcomes
Screening is a Process

A. Identify
B. Invite/remind
C. Assess risk
D. Screen
E. Notify of results
F. Follow up
G. Recall/remind

IT system
Ontario’s Cancer Screening Information System

**Inputs**
- Population database
- Hospital records
- Kit results
- MD billings
- Colonoscopy results
- Ontario Cancer Registry

**Outputs**
- Program Operations
- Program Evaluation
- Program Reporting

InScreen®
Colon Cancer Check

• gFOBT for **average** risk (50–74, no symptoms)

• Colonoscopy for **increased** risk (first-degree relative with CRC)
Colon Cancer Check

- Mailed invitation to see your primary care provider (PCP)
- PCP orders gFOBT
- PCP refers gFOBT+ for colonoscopy
- Full rollout
Colonoscopy in Ontario

Colon Cancer Check
CCC Performance

ONTARIO CANCER SCREENING PERFORMANCE REPORT 2016
Number of Screen-Eligible People

Year


Number of screen-eligible people

5,000,000
4,500,000
4,000,000
3,500,000
3,000,000
2,500,000
2,000,000
1,500,000
1,000,000
500,000
0
Colonoscopy Follow-Up within 6 Months of gFOBT+
And This Shows That...

Every system is perfectly designed to get the results it gets.
Increasing Percent Up-to-Date and Decreasing CRC Mortality
Annual Percent Up-to-Date with Colorectal Screening by Test and Screen-Eligible Population
What Have We Learned?
How Long Does It Take?

• >10 yrs to plan, pilot and implement CRC screening program

• Additional yrs before full impact of the program can be measured

Like building an airport...
What Have We Learned?

• Screening is a process
• **Design matters**
• Don’t wait for perfection
• Implement, evaluate, and strengthen
What Is Next?
Opportunities to Strengthen

- Strong platform
- Colonoscopy quality
- FIT launched in June 2019
- COVID colonoscopy backlog; convert low-yield procedures to FIT+
Acknowledgements

Ministry of Health
ColonCancerCheck team
Catherine Dubé
Jill Tinmouth
Nancy Baxter
Larry Paszat
Thank You