



CCO invites provincial auditors to review policies and practices

On October 8, the Ontario Internal Audit Division of the Ministry of Finance released a report examining Cancer Care Ontario's procurement and administrative policies. The review was initiated by CCO to ensure our policies adhere to the highest standards and identify opportunities for improvement.

The audit followed our own efforts, started twelve months ago, to tighten up internal controls, documentation management and evaluation of contracts.

We have invited the auditors back in one year for a second review to ensure we have made all possible administrative improvements.

[Read more in this issue of **Ontario Cancer News**.](#)



Audit highlights areas for improvement

Most of the audit findings relate to past rather than current practice. The recent story of CCO is one of success.



Promoting Cancer Screening and Prevention in the Workplace: A new Cancer Care Ontario toolkit for health promoters



Research news

Cancer Care Ontario researchers examine the contribution of clinical breast examination to breast cancer screening



CCO employees receive the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Ace Award



ColonCancerCheck's InScreen technology solution is live!

Solution enables identification of over 3 million Ontarians eligible to be screened for colorectal cancer



Ontario Cancer Facts

Continued rise in new cases of mesothelioma (Sept. 2009)



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Anne Cowan joins CCO as Director of Procurement



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Ontario Hospital Association HealthAchieve 2009 Conference: November 16-18

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Audit highlights areas for improvement

Recently, the Ontario Internal Audit Division of the Ministry of Finance released a report examining our procurement and administrative policies. The CCO board, with the support of senior management, invited the review to ensure our policies adhere to the highest standards and identify opportunities for improvement. The audit followed our own efforts that we started twelve months ago to tighten up our internal controls, documentation management and evaluation of contracts. As a result, most of the audit findings have to do with past rather than current practice.

We take the recommendations for improvement very seriously and have taken concrete steps to continue to improve our administrative processes and internal controls. Today, we have:

- A new procurement policy that aligns with the new Management Board directives.
- Controls in place that restrict reimbursement of non-eligible expenses.
- An organization-wide independent procurement office which is separate from business units and is now fully operational.
- An organization-wide document management system that will improve our file management capacity and internal controls.
- An ongoing review of, and updates to our human resources policies and procedures.

Cancer Care Ontario has a proven track record of improving access and quality of care for cancer patients throughout the province, with an explicit public plan and regular public reporting. We are known best for our work in decreasing wait times for patients and our screening initiatives such as the Ontario Breast Screening Program. With our partners we established Canada's first organized colorectal screening program, ColonCancerCheck, founded new and expanded cancer centres and increased access to innovations such as Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy.

In short, over the last five years, we have delivered value for money and Ontarians can plainly see where we have made progress and where more work is needed in cancer care. To build upon our track record of accountability, we have invited the auditors back in one year's time for a second review to ensure we have made all possible administrative improvements.

We remain committed to ensuring better cancer services every step of the way, from prevention and

screening to treatment and end-of-life care. We will do this by continuing to work with our partners in the community throughout the province. And, we will continue to communicate in a way that is open and transparent, so we can retain the trust and confidence we share with cancer patients, their families and the Ontario public.

The complete Cancer Care Ontario internal audit report and our response for addressing the recommendations [can be found on our website](#).

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Promoting Cancer Screening and Prevention in the Workplace: A new Cancer Care Ontario toolkit for health promoters

Just in time for cervical cancer awareness week (October 26-30, 2009), Cancer Care Ontario launched the Promoting Cancer Screening and Prevention in the Workplace toolkit.

Developed with valuable expert feedback from Ontario Occupational Health Nurses Association members, Public Health staff and Ontario Breast Screening Program health promoters, this toolkit has been carefully designed for use in Ontario workplaces by occupational health nurses, health units and health promoters. The goal of this tool is to improve the adoption of breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening and to promote cancer prevention behaviors among workers.

The collection of resources including a poster, game, fact sheet, looping presentation and more, are all free of charge. To view the toolkit, provide feedback or obtain ordering instructions, please visit Cancer Care Ontario online at www.cancercare.on.ca/workplacetoolkit.

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**Research news****Cancer Care Ontario researchers examine the contribution of clinical breast examination to breast cancer screening**

A new study published by the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* addresses the controversy about whether adding clinical breast examination (CBE) to mammography improves the accuracy of breast screening. Anna M. Chiarelli, PhD, and colleagues in Population Studies and Surveillance at Cancer Care Ontario compared the accuracy of screening among centres that offered CBE with that of centres that offered mammography only. In total, the study was conducted among 290,230 women screened within the Ontario Breast Screening Program.

Overall, the study suggests more answers are needed on the role of CBE before definitive recommendations for or against its use can be made. While we wait for those answers, the data presented by Chiarelli et al suggests that CBE must be done well if it is to be done at all. They acknowledge that if the practice continues, the potential risks and costs will increase as a result of a higher rate of false positives and the anxiety associated with additional evaluations.

This research was supported by a grant from the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation - Ontario Division.

- [Read the complete study](#)

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Cancer Care Ontario's Marnie MacKinnon, Linda Rabeneck, Helen Angus and former employee Janine Hopkins, along with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care team received the ministry's 2009 ACE award in customer service for their contribution to ColonCancerCheck.

The ministry's ACE award stands for achievement, commitment and excellence. The awards recognize individuals and groups who:

- exemplify the ministry's commitment to quality service,
- forge strong partnerships internally and across the Ontario health system,
- are innovators, and,
- through initiative and leadership, are outstanding achievers.

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ColonCancerCheck's InScreen technology solution is live!

The first release of InScreen, ColonCancerCheck's innovative information technology solution, was successfully launched this month. This proactive solution enables the identification of over three million Ontarians who are eligible to be screened for colorectal cancer.

InScreen's innovative use of technology will help the ColonCancerCheck program encourage colorectal cancer screening by providing the following features and benefits:

- Identifying patients eligible for screening (adults aged 50-74)
- Inviting eligible patients to discuss colorectal cancer screening options with their physicians
- Recalling patients for screening
- Reminding patients who are overdue for screening
- Notifying patients and physicians of screening results
- Tracking patients across their screening journeys and enabling quality and activity reporting at various population levels.

InScreen allows for direct access to health information for patients and physicians, with the goals of:

- Reducing mortality from colorectal cancer through an organized screening program
 - Colorectal cancer is 90% curable if detected early
- Improving the capacity of primary care to participate in comprehensive colorectal cancer screening

The next release of InScreen will be launched later this year and will establish complete screening records with all clinical information, enabling a full picture of the colorectal cancer screening journey for Ontarians.

With the launch of InScreen, tangible benefits including the earlier detection of colorectal cancer will be realized. In the future, InScreen technology and best practices can be leveraged for other population-based initiatives.

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**Ontario Cancer Facts****Continued rise in new cases of mesothelioma (Sept. 2009)**

Mesothelioma is a rare but highly fatal cancer that is closely tied to asbestos exposure. At least 65% of cases of mesothelioma are thought to be related to asbestos exposure at work. Although it can occur in a number of body sites, the most common location is the layer of tissue lining the chest cavity called the pleura.

Between 1980 and 2006, the number of mesothelioma cases among men rose steadily.

Cancer Care Ontario, as part of a partnership with the Occupational Cancer Research Centre, is currently working on predicting future trends in mesothelioma incidence.

[Find out more in September's Ontario Cancer Fact on Cancer Care Ontario's website.](#)

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Anne Cowan has joined Cancer Care Ontario as Director of Procurement. Anne joins us from Infrastructure Ontario where she was responsible for leading a procurement team managing major infrastructure projects for the province. Prior to her role at Infrastructure Ontario, Anne was the Director Quality, Risk and Contract Management for North York Community Care Access Centre.

Anne holds a Masters of Health Science from University of Toronto and a Bachelor of Science, Occupational Therapy from Queen's University.

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Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) HealthAchieve 2009 Conference

Date: November 16–18

Location: Metro Toronto Convention Centre - North Building, Toronto, ON

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