Connecting Patients to Primary Care Providers in Manitoba Lung Cancer Screening Program

CancerCare Manitoba received funding from the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer to develop an organized provincial lung cancer screening program. Work is underway to develop the needed components. In an effort to include vulnerable populations who may be at high risk of developing lung cancer, we would like participants to be able to self-refer for an eligibility assessment. We expect that a portion of these participants may not have a regular primary care provider, but ideally would be connected with one prior to CT screening. The lung cancer screening program would manage any lung cancer-related findings, but the participant would need a primary care provider to help manage any incidental findings (e.g. thyroid nodules, coronary artery calcification, etc.).

We do not want the requirement of having a regular provider for screening to create or exacerbate inequities for our patient population. The project is currently developing options for attaching participants without a regular provider to a primary care provider. This includes discussions with Family Doctor Finder about using CancerCare Manitoba’s priority code, which expedites a participant’s referral to a provider. Family Doctor Finder will be the first option for unattached participants but there are potential issues in relying solely on them (delays for participants to be matched successfully with providers, access issues for participants outside of Winnipeg or those with more complex needs).

We are reaching out to physicians and clinic groups that may be interested in taking on a small portion of these patients who are not successfully attached through Family Doctor Finder. The project estimates that approximately 10% of participants, or 100 people annually, may not have a primary care provider and about 25% of those, or 25 people, may have actionable incidental findings. The lung cancer screening program would handle all lung cancer findings and result reports would be automatically sent to your clinic after each scan or follow-up test. There would also be support on clinical or screening issues from the program team.

If becoming involved in this part of the program would be of interest, please send me your/your clinic’s contact information and we will keep you updated on new information and program progress. If you have any questions, please reach out to me or Dr. James Bras, Medical Lead for the lung cancer screening program (jbras@hsc.mb.ca).