

Sent on behalf of the Colorectal Cancer Pathway Chair, Dr. Conrad Falkson

Dear members of the Canadian Association for Enterostomal Therapy,

Disease Pathway Management (DPM) is a unifying approach to the way Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) sets priorities for cancer control, plans cancer services and improves the quality of care in Ontario. Established in 2008, DPM uses a disease-specific approach to create pathway maps, which are used to examine the performance of the entire system across the cancer patient journey – from prevention to recovery and end-of-life care – and to identify areas for improvement in relation the quality of care, processes, and patient experience along the cancer care continuum. One of DPM's main goals is to develop disease pathway maps for all major cancer types by 2015. Disease pathway maps are flowcharts that illustrate a high-level overview of the care a cancer patient in Ontario should receive. Each pathway focuses on one type of cancer, during a specific phase of the cancer journey, with the understanding that the patient journey differs from one cancer to another. The DPM Secretariat is pleased to share with you the **Colorectal Cancer Pathways**, which are now available on the external Cancer Care Ontario website.

The **Colorectal Cancer (CRC) Pathways** provide an overview of evidence-based best practices for the management of patients in Ontario during a specific phase of the CRC patient journey. A total of six pathways have been developed that span the colorectal cancer patient journey and include:

- [The CRC Screening Pathway](#)
- [The CRC Diagnosis Pathway](#)
- [The CRC Follow-up Care Pathway](#)
- [The Colon Cancer Treatment Pathway](#)
- [The Rectal Cancer Treatment Pathway](#)
- [The Patient-Friendly Version of the CRC Screening and Diagnosis Pathways](#)

The Patient-Friendly Versions of the pathways are intended for patients, family members and caregivers, and will guide them through the main steps involved in a particular phase of a cancer patient's journey. We encourage clinicians to use these tools as a means of communicating with patients and their caregivers in a relatable manner. To view the Patient-Friendly Versions of the pathways, please [click here](#). Following its publication, the Patient-Friendly Version of the CRC Screening and Diagnosis Pathways will be transformed into an online, clickable version that will be integrated into CCO's Diagnostic Assessment Program – Electronic Pathway Solution (DAP-EPS).

The CRC Pathways were created using a multidisciplinary process that emphasizes evidence-based medicine and incorporates input from leading Ontario experts. The CRC Pathways have been developed with the aim of setting care expectations for colorectal cancer patients. To view the CRC Pathways and a list of the Ontario experts involved in the development of these pathways, please [click here](#).

If you have questions or comments pertaining to the CRC Pathways, please contact disease.pathway.management@cancercare.on.ca.

Sincerely,

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