After a cancer screening result

Use this guide to plan questions for the clinician or screening team that is following your result.

Find out what the result means

An abnormal screening result needs follow-up. Ask which test was done, what the result means and who will coordinate your next step.

Ask about possible next steps

- Breast screening may be followed by diagnostic imaging, assessment at a breast clinic or a biopsy.
- An abnormal cervical screening result may lead to repeat testing or a colposcopy, which is an examination of the cervix.
- A positive FIT usually leads to a discussion about follow-up colonoscopy.
- An abnormal low-dose CT result may lead to more imaging or a lung specialist assessment.

Plan support during and after treatment

If you have had cancer, ask for a treatment summary and a clear follow-up plan. Ask which concerns to bring to the cancer team or primary care, and about rehabilitation, emotional support or navigation if you need it.

Sources

Between Visits abnormal-result pathway
Ontario colon screening and FIT results
Ontario Health survivorship resources

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