

Primary Care Day Conference

Name of Project/Initiative	Lung cancer screening of patients at our home clinic, Northern Connections Medical Center (NCMC)
Goal	<p>To increase the rate of lung cancer screening for high-risk patients at NCMC between the ages of 55-74 years old with 30 pack-year (number of packs of cigarettes smoked per day by the number of years the person has smoked) history who still smoke OR quit less than 15 years ago, annually for 3 consecutive years, as per Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care Guidelines.</p>
Critical Success Factors	<p>We have implemented two change ideas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Emailing staff at our home clinic reminding them about lung cancer screening guidelines and having those discussions with patients along with adequate documentation of their smoking history (i.e. pack-year, year they quit) ii) Posters throughout the clinic examination rooms <p>As our project is on-going at NCMC, we were happy to note that there was an increase of 3% after sending email reminders to staff to have these discussions with patients. We are hoping to be successful with a further increase to 5% in our next data analysis with the addition of patient-friendly posters by the end of December 2024.</p>
Lessons Learned	<p>Many of our patients are from Northern Communities and unfortunately do not have access to CT as Nursing Stations are limited with limited imaging modalities available to them. It is our role as primary care physicians to ensure our patients are up to date with their preventative health. With our Indigenous patient population, travelling between the city and Northern Communities is very difficult to be up to date with their screening which also includes lung, breast, cervical and colon cancer. We must consider all factors including patients, providers, and the system itself. Lung cancer is one of the most diagnosed cancers, and the leading cause of cancer death. Early detection through screening can help find cancer in its early stages and start treatment sooner rather than later. Big picture future goals would be to implement a provincially organized screening protocol, such as the program currently in British Columbia for lung cancer screening.</p>
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