

# **BC Cancer Colon Screening Pre and Post Colonoscopy Standards**

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# **Pre and Post Colonoscopy Assessment Standards Colon Screening Program**

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#### **About BC Cancer**

BC Cancer, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, provides a comprehensive cancer control program for the people of BC in partnership with regional health authorities. This includes prevention, screening and early detection programs, research and education, and care and treatment.

BC Cancer's mandate is a three-fold mission:

- To reduce the incidence of cancer
- To reduce the mortality rate of people with cancer
- · To improve the quality of life of people living with cancer

This mission drives everything we do, including providing screening, diagnosis and care, setting treatment standards, and conducting research into causes of, and cures for cancer.

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#### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Colon Screening Program

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second leading cause of cancer death in men and third leading cause of cancer death in women. The Colon Screening Program seeks to reduce the incidence and mortality of colorectal cancer by providing timely and equitable access to high quality screening and diagnostic services to eligible people. The program is available in all areas of B.C.

#### 1.2 Purpose of the Standards

These standards are designed to maximize participant safety and program efficiency and efficacy by ensuring pre and post colonoscopy assessment is carried out in a safe, effective, and consistent manner across the province.

#### 1.3 Sources of Information

The Pre-Post Colonoscopy Assessment Standards are based on the experiences of the BC Cancer Colon Check pilot program, the Vancouver Island Health Authority Pilot Program, and the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme (UK).

#### 1.4 General Principles

- Maximize follow-up colonoscopy uptake for participants with a positive FIT.
- Optimize participant understanding of colonoscopy.
- Optimize participant satisfaction.
- Minimize colonoscopy related complications.
- Optimize follow-up screening and surveillance.

#### 1.5 Program Eligibility

Eligible participants are referred to the program by primary care providers. There are three main categories of eligibility:

- Individuals, age 50 to 74 years, without a personal history of pre-cancerous colorectal lesions nor a high-risk family history of colorectal cancer, will be offered FIT every two years.
- 2. Individuals with a personal history of a pre-cancerous colorectal lesions will be offered colonoscopy surveillance, when appropriate, or FIT to 74 years of age.

3. A high-risk family history is defined as a single first degree relative (parent, full sibling, child) diagnosed with colorectal cancer at less than 60 years of age or two or more first degree relatives diagnosed with colorectal cancer at any age. Individuals with a high-risk family history of colorectal cancer will be offered colonoscopy every 5 years, commencing at 40 years of age or 10 years younger than the age of colorectal cancer diagnosis of the youngest affected relative, whichever is earliest. The youngest affected relative should be on the same side of the family as the first degree relative with colorectal cancer but does not have to be a first degree relative (e.g. aunt, cousin or half-sibling, etc...).

Primary care providers are provided with information on the eligibility criteria for the program and it is expected that providers consider and adhere to the criteria. However, some participants will be asked to complete a FIT inappropriately.

If the FIT is abnormal, the Colon Screening Program recommends colonoscopy in all of the following scenarios:

- Participant had a normal FIT recently and is not yet due for repeat FIT.
- Participant is in a colonoscopy surveillance program for a personal history of pre-cancerous colorectal lesions or a high-risk family history of colorectal cancer but has a FIT that is abnormal.
- Participant who had an abnormal FIT followed by a colonoscopy in which neither colorectal cancer nor pre-cancerous colorectal lesions were identified, and the next recommended screening is FIT in 10 years. The participant undergoes FIT before they are due and it is abnormal.

Colonoscopy is protective for ten years and previous guidelines based on data using the guaiac fecal occult blood test stated that an abnormal guaiac fecal occult blood test following a negative colonoscopy could be ignored. However, given the improved performance of FIT, more recent guidelines have recommended that colonoscopy be offered to participants with an early FIT that is abnormal. These recommendations were graded as weak and based on low quality evidence. However, a further peer-reviewed publication has demonstrated a risk of post-colonoscopy colorectal cancer in this group. Despite the risk of colorectal cancer for participants with an abnormal FIT who are not yet due for colonoscopy, data does not support the addition of FIT to colonoscopy surveillance in participants with a personal history of neoplastic polyps or a family history of colorectal cancer. There are harms associated with over-screening and the best defense against post-colonoscopy colorectal cancer is ensuring the initial exam is high quality.

Participants not eligible for screening within the Colon Screening Program:

- 1. Personal history of colorectal cancer or inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis which includes ulcerative proctitis)
  - Require individualized screening directed by a colonoscopist.

#### 2. Outside the screening age range

- Participants with abnormal FIT results who are under 50 years old are not referred on for further follow-up. Participants up to age 75.5 are referred for further follow-up to allow for participants who may have been offered FIT prior to their 75<sup>th</sup> birthday but did not complete the test until after. Those over age 75.5 are not referred to the Health Authority for further follow-up.
- If the participant is older than 74 years, then the participant will not be recalled by the Colon Screening Program for further screening or surveillance.
- 3. Symptoms that require a full colonoscopist assessment
  - Local processes should be used in determining whether a participant with symptoms should be assessed and booked through the usual Colon Screening Program follow-up process or if the provider should be notified to refer for follow-up through a different process. In general, the Colon Screening Program is supportive of maintaining participants in the program for follow-up to reduce re-routing referrals and improve follow-up efficiency for participants.
     Participants with significant symptoms should consult with the colonoscopist prior to the procedure.
- 4. Participants with a high-risk family history or a personal history of pre-cancerous colorectal lesions that are referred for colonoscopy who are not yet due for colonoscopy or who are recommended to screen with FIT
  - Do not complete the colonoscopy and use the Referral Update Form to indicate
    when the participant is due for colonoscopy or FIT (see Appendix A). The
    participant will be recalled for colonoscopy or FIT when next due. Participants
    who will be over the age of 74 years when due will not be referred by the
    Program.

#### 2. Hospital and Endoscopy Unit Standards

#### 2.1 Assessment and Participant Education

- Contact referred participants and establish a time to complete assessment. Each
  Regional Health Authority will determine whether the assessment takes place by
  telephone, in person or through group education sessions. Self-reported height
  and weight is acceptable for phone assessments.
- Confirm the participant's primary care provider. A primary care provider is required for participants undergoing colonoscopy to support any follow-up that the participant may need.
- Confirm family history of colon cancer or personal history of pre-cancerous
  colorectal lesions for those being referred for colonoscopy. If the information
  provided does not meet the program eligibility requirements for colonoscopy,
  then communicate this back with the participant's primary care provider to
  ensure appropriate screening is arranged.
- Complete pre-colonoscopy assessment. The elements of a recommended assessment are available in the Assessment Form example (see Appendix B).
  - Identify any high risk factors that require colonoscopist assessment prior to colonoscopy and liaise with colonoscopist as indicated. See Section 3 and Participant Assessment Process document (see Appendix B).
- Identify the presence of a high-risk family history for hereditary colorectal cancer. If a high-risk family history is identified, advise the participant to discuss their history with their primary care provider.
- Provide education to the participant regarding:
  - Implications of an abnormal FIT and the reasons for colonoscopy followup.
  - Colonoscopy is always indicated after a positive FIT, even if there is a subsequent negative FIT.
  - Bowel preparation and colonoscopy.
  - Explain the risks of colonoscopy.
  - Provide the participant with the Colon Screening Program Colonoscopy
     Brochure (sample in Appendix C) to inform them about colonoscopy.
  - Give the participant written bowel preparation instructions, based on the assessment and the local practices for selecting bowel preparation type.
- Book participant for colonoscopy:
  - If not proceeding to colonoscopy, advise primary care provider using Not Proceeding to Colonoscopy letter and send the Referral Update Form to the Colon Screening Program (see Appendix D and A).
- Participants who do not proceed to their colonoscopy within 6 months of the assessment should be re-assessed prior to proceeding to colonoscopy.

#### 2.2 Bowel Preparation

Participants should be provided with written preparation instructions as per the Bowel Preparation Algorithm in Appendix E.

Fleet phospho-soda is contraindicated. (Health Canada Reference: www.healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2009/9807r-eng.php)

Split-dose bowel preparations, in which the second dose of the bowel preparation is given 4 to 6 hours prior to the colonoscopy and same-day bowel preparations for afternoon procedures are recommended. Studies have shown that split-dose bowel preparations improve the quality of the bowel preparation as compared to bowel preparations administered the day prior to colonoscopy and this has led to a significant increase in the adenoma detection rate.

Polyethylene glycol (PEG) based regimens are the preferred preparation for:

- Age > 65 years
- Diuretic use
- Renal insufficiency (GFR < 60)</li>
- Diabetes
- Congestive heart failure
- Liver cirrhosis or ascites

If a colonoscopy is incomplete due to a poor bowel preparation, then the colonoscopist should specify the bowel preparation for the next colonoscopy and re-book the participant in a Colon Screening Program slot. After a failed preparation, an individualized bowel preparation will be required. On the Colonoscopy Reporting Form, the colonoscopist will tick the box for "Repeat Colonoscopy". Local processes should be used for re-booking the participant. The colonoscopist is responsible for ensuring the participant is re-booked.

#### 3. Alerts for Colonoscopy

#### 3.1 Pre-Colonoscopy Assessment

A pre-colonoscopy questionnaire is a useful tool to identify participants being considered for colonoscopy and polypectomy who may be at increased risk, see Assessment Form (Appendix B). Two methods of contact, separated by a two week interval, is the minimum requirement for contacting participants for colonoscopy assessment. For example, call the participant, wait two weeks, if no response then mail a letter to client requesting they contact the health authority.

Pre-existing medical conditions and medications may conflict with a safe bowel preparation, medications used for sedation, electrocautery equipment or be associated with increased risk of complications.

Each individual is unique and the clinical circumstances with each participant prevent clear guidelines as to appropriate adjustments required in every circumstance of identified increased risk. When in doubt as to the appropriate action, the participant's family physician and/or the attending colonoscopist should be consulted for clinical direction.

If any of the following conditions exist, then the health authority staff should alert the colonoscopist and the participant may require a consultation prior to colonoscopy. The participant may also see the colonoscopist prior to the colonoscopy at the participant's request.

#### **GI Symptoms**

- Rectal bleeding
- Chronic diarrhea
- Persistent change in bowel habits
- Chronic abdominal pain
- Unexplained weight loss

Significant co-morbid medical illnesses

- Cancer
- Dialysis participants
- Insulin-dependent diabetics
- Bleeding disorders and participants on antithrombotics
- Cardiac disease requiring a pacemaker or defibrillator
- Respiratory disease requiring home oxygen or CPAP
- Congestive heart failure
- Current angina or history of a myocardial infarction

- Severe aortic stenosis
- Cirrhosis with ascites
- Morbid obesity (BMI ≥ 40)

Personal history of precancerous lesions to monitor for polyposis

 Total count of prior adenomas and prior serrated lesions (including hyperplastic polyps) removed, e.g. lifetime precancerous lesion count

#### Other

• Participant who will not consent to blood products (e.g. Jehovah's Witness)

#### 3.2 Antithrombotic Therapy

Antithrombotic agents are medications that prevent blood clot formation and can be divided into anticoagulants and antiplatelet agents. These medications may increase a participant's risk of bleeding following colonoscopic polypectomy. While previous recommendations state that polypectomy should not be performed while a participant is on anti-thrombotics, recent guidelines consider cold snare polypectomy of lesions up to 10 mm is size as a low-risk procedure which may be performed without cessation of anti-thrombotic medications. Biopsies are permitted.

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen and naproxen are not prescribed to prevent clot formation but as a side effect they do inhibit platelet function and increase the bleeding time. Prospective studies have concluded that acetylsalicylic acid (ASA) and NSAIDs can be safely continued for colonoscopy and polypectomy.

Whether a medication is discontinued prior to undergoing colonoscopy involves balancing the risk of bleeding following removal of pre-cancerous lesions and the risk of clotting if the antithrombotic medication is held. Participants on antiplatelet agents (aside from ASA and NSAIDs), anti-thrombin agents and anticoagulants should be reviewed by a physician prior to the colonoscopy to decide timing of the colonoscopy, discontinuation of the antithrombotic agent, the need for bridging anticoagulation and when the antithrombotic agent can be restarted. This is the responsibility of the colonoscopist; however, the decisions regarding discontinuation of anti-thrombotics, need for bridging therapy and resumption of anti-thrombotics may be at the recommendation of the participant's primary care provider, cardiologist, neurologist and/or thrombosis clinic.

Two scenarios that have arisen in the Colon Screening Program and recommended actions are below.

1. If a participant arrives for their scheduled colonoscopy, prepared, but having neglected to hold the antithrombotic as recommended, the colonoscopy should still be undertaken. If a pre-cancerous lesion is discovered, then the colonoscopist and patient may have decided to remove any lesions less than 10 mm with a cold snare. Otherwise, the procedure will be re-scheduled with the anti-thrombotic held. If a mass lesion is discovered, then biopsies can be performed. It is the colonoscopist's responsibility to ensure the participant is re-

booked for the colonoscopy.

2. If a participant cannot safely discontinue an anti-thrombotic agent as the risk of thrombosis is too high, then the colonoscopy should be undertaken while the participant continues the anti-thrombotic medication. This most commonly occurs following coronary stent placement and the requirement for uninterrupted anti-thrombotics is time-limited. If a pre-cancerous lesion is discovered, then the colonoscopist and patient may have decided to remove any lesions less than 10 mm with a cold snare. Otherwise, the procedure will be rescheduled with the anti-thrombotic held. If a mass lesion is discovered, biopsies can be performed. It is the colonoscopist's responsibility to ensure the participant is re-booked for the colonoscopy.

The following are examples of anticoagulants and antiplatelet agents with the Canadian brand names in brackets. New antithrombotic agents may be available in the near future so this list should not be considered exclusive:

#### **Anticoagulants**

- Warfarin (Coumadin)
- Heparin
- Low-molecular weight heparin
  - Enoxaparin (Lovenox)
  - Dalteparin (Fragmin)
- Fondaparinux (Arixtra)
- Dabigatran (Pradax)
- Rivaroxaban (Xarelto)
- Apixaban (Eliquis)
- Desirudin (Iprivask)

#### **Antiplatelet Agents**

- Acetylsalicylic Acid
- Cilostazol (Pletal)
- Thienopyridine agents
  - Clopidogrel (Plavix)
  - Ticlopidine (Ticlid)
  - Prasugrel (Effient)
  - Ticagrelor (Brilinta)

#### 3.3 Cardiac Defibrillator

Implantable cardiac defibrillators are increasingly common and may be activated inadvertently during endoscopy if electrocautery is used. Most participants with cardiac pacemakers may undergo routine uses of electrocautery (e.g. polypectomy) with no alterations in management. Some standard precautions are necessary during the procedure to minimize risk.

In all participants with implanted cardiac devices, determine the type of cardiac device, indication for the device and degree of pacemaker dependence before endoscopy. Most participants carry a wallet card, which identifies the device and contact numbers.

In participants with cardiac defibrillators, consultation with cardiologist is recommended and deactivation of the device by qualified personnel should be considered. Continuous cardiac monitoring during the procedure is recommended. The device should be reprogrammed as soon as possible after the procedure.

#### 3.4 Diabetes

People with diabetes may experience difficulty with glucose control and other metabolic disturbances during a modified diet and fasting prior to colonoscopy. Most participants on non-insulin agents can safely continue the medications until their usual diet is interrupted. Most medications should be held once the clear liquid diet begins. Some medications with a longer duration of action will need to be held earlier (eg GLP-1 receptor agonists that are administered weekly and SGLT-2 inhibitors). Medications should be restarted when normal oral intake is resumed after the procedure. The table below displays the recommended anti-hyperglycemic agent dose modification.

Anti- hyperglycemic Agents	Examples (Brand Name)	Dose Adjustment
Agents		
Biguanides	Metformin (Glucophage,	Hold once
	Glumetza)	clear liquid
		diet starts
Sulfonylureas	Gliclazide (Diamicron)	Hold day
		prior to
	Glimepiride (Amaryl)	colonoscopy
	Glyburide (Diabeta)	
GLP-1 receptor	Dulaglutide (Trulicity) - weekly	Hold once
agonists		clear liquid
	Exenatide (Byetta)	diet starts.
		For weekly
		injectable, if
		dose due

	Liraglutide (Victoza/Saxenda)	within 2
		days prior to
	Lixisenatide (Adylxine)	colonoscopy,
		delay until
	Semaglutide (Rybelsus)	after
		colonoscopy
	Semaglutide (Ozempic) - weekly	
SGLT-2	Canagliflozin (Invokana)	Hold 72
inhibitors		hours prior
	Dapagliflozin (Forxiga)	to
		colonoscopy
	Empagliflozin (Jardiance)	.,
DPP-4 Inhibitors	Alogliptin (Nesina)	Hold day of
		procedure
	Linagliptin (Trajenta)	
	Cita di atta (la casta)	
	Sitagliptin (Januvia)	
	Saxagliptin (Onglyza)	
Metglitinides	Nateglinide (Starlix)	Hold once
		clear liquid
	Repaglinide (GlucoNorm)	diet starts

Participants requiring insulin will need to reduce the insulin dosage once the clear liquid diet begins. Most participants on insulin have been educated on how to adjust their own insulin during periods of fasting. Participants should be asked to consult with the physician who manages their insulin ahead of the procedure.

Participants with diabetes are at increased risk of renal disease and should be questioned as to any pre-existing renal impairment, as this would impact the type of bowel preparation that would be recommended.

#### 3.5 Iron Tablets

Oral iron compounds interact with colonic mucous and dietary compounds and impair the effect of bowel preparations. Participants should be advised to discontinue oral iron preparations 7 days prior to the procedure. Even oral vitamins containing iron are best discontinued to improve colonoscopy quality.

#### 3.6 Glaucoma

Glaucoma (an optic neuropathy due to increased intro-ocular pressure) is present in ~1-8% of individuals over 40 and more common in diabetics. Participants with increased intraocular pressure or glaucoma are often treated with topical eye drop medications.

Glaucoma can be aggravated by anti-cholinergic drugs, which are occasionally used during endoscopic procedures to reduce smooth muscle spasm. Glaucoma is usually well controlled with topical medications, which should be continued, and does not interfere with colonoscopy or polypectomy. Anti-spasmodic drugs should be avoided during the procedure.

#### 3.7 Renal Insufficiency/Dialysis

Participants with impairment of renal function can be adversely affected by the dehydrating potential of colonoscopy bowel preparations. Participants with significant kidney disease (e.g. eGFR of less than 60ml/min) should be offered an electrolyte solution containing polyethylene glycol (PEG) for bowel cleansing.

Participants receiving dialysis who require colonoscopy present challenges for safe, effective bowel preparation that does not seriously affect their fluid balance. Colonoscopy is best scheduled in consultation with the participant's nephrologists to discuss bowel preparation and appropriate timing of the procedure in relation to the participant's dialysis times.

Routine antibiotic prophylaxis is not recommended prior to colonoscopy. Antibiotic prophylaxis prior to colonoscopy is recommended for participants undergoing continuous peritoneal dialysis to prevent peritonitis. A single dose of ampicillin plus an aminoglycoside may be given intravenously just prior to the colonoscopy. Intraperitoneal antibiotics the night prior to colonoscopy is an alternative strategy. The abdomen should be emptied of fluid prior to colonoscopy.

#### 3.8 Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)

Participants with congestive heart failure may be at increased risk of complications related to colonoscopy bowel preparation and should be offered the PEG based bowel preparations. Participants with severe congestive heart failure, which causes shortness of breath on exertion or significantly limits activity, require a medical consult before colonoscopy should be considered.

#### 4. Informed Consent

Requirements for written informed consent will differ according to the institution. The Colon Screening Program "Answering Your Questions About Colonoscopy" brochure provides information on the risks of colonoscopy. This must be provided to each participant, in addition to any institution specific consent requirements. It's important that the participant be given time to process the consent information and ask questions. The health authority staff will provide the participant with the information necessary to give informed consent. The colonoscopist will obtain consent prior to the procedure.

Colonoscopy has a 1/250 risk of a serious complication. This includes the following:

- Reaction to the bowel preparation
- Reaction to the medication used for sedation
- Cardiopulmonary event
- Infection
- Bleeding
- Perforation (<1/1000)</li>

The chance of death from colonoscopy is 1/30,000.

The chance of a significant abnormality being missed is 1/10.

Additional information to answer participant's questions is provided below.

- Cardiopulmonary event refers to desaturation, low blood pressure and rarely angina or myocardial infarction.
- Infection refers to phlebitis related to the IV, pneumonia (aspiration), and diverticulitis. Infection can be transmitted by the colonoscope between participants or from a contaminated water supply. If infection is transmitted between participants, it indicates an error has occurred in the colonoscope cleaning.
- Bleeding is almost always at the site of a polyp removal. It is usually self-limited but will occasionally require hospital admission with a repeat colonoscopy, blood transfusion, radiologic intervention, or surgery.
- Perforation is usually at the site of a polyp removal. It almost always requires surgery.

#### 5. Post Colonoscopy Assessment

All participants with colonoscopy information recorded on colonoscopy reporting forms — whether assessed and booked by Health Authority staff or by a colonoscopist only — require post-colonoscopy assessment to monitor for unplanned events and to ensure that the program has information on file to recall participants as needed.

#### 5.1 Telephone Follow-up at 14 Days

Fourteen days after the procedure, the health authority staff will contact the participant. Two methods of contact, separated by a two week interval, is the minimum requirement for contacting participants for post-colonoscopy follow-up. For example, call the participant, wait two weeks, if no response then mail a letter to the participant requesting they contact the health authority. The purpose of the 14-day telephone interview is to:

- Assess for any unplanned events following colonoscopy and
- Recommend the next re-screening or surveillance interval

#### 5.2 Unplanned Events

Any unplanned event occurring the day before or following colonoscopy should be recorded using the Unplanned Event Form (Appendix F). A serious adverse event is an adverse event that results in a hospitalization, blood transfusion, interventional radiology procedure, other intervention, surgery, or death.

#### 5.3 Re-screening and Surveillance Guidelines

Re-screening and surveillance intervals are based on the findings at colonoscopy and align with the BC guidelines. See the Colonoscopy Standards document for current program standards. The health authority staff should review the participant's colonoscopy report form for lesion size and whether any lesions were not removed or not retrieved, the pathology report, and the recommendations in the colonoscopist's Procedure Report. If recommendations differ from the re-screening or surveillance guidelines outlined in the Colonoscopy Standards document, then the next recommended screening type and interval should be discussed with the colonoscopist. There is a Colonoscopy Follow-up Algorithm that can be used to help determine the appropriate follow-up interval for participants based on their history and pathology findings (Appendix G).

Complete the Follow-Up Form (Appendix H) based on the guidelines and colonoscopist's recommendations and fax the form to the Colon Screening Program. The Program will generate a letter outlining re-screening/surveillance recommendations to be sent to the family physician, colonoscopist and health authority staff who completed the assessment.

Deviations in the recommendations are appropriate under certain circumstances. Examples are in the Colonoscopy Standards.

Where multiple colonoscopies are needed to complete a screening interval, the final follow-up recommendations should consider the outcomes of all procedures and document the next recommended screening as needed. This can be managed through a deviation if the standard intervals do not apply (e.g. participant needs to return in 30 months from the second procedure when a second was completed to assess a piecemeal resection of a high risk lesion six months after the first procedure).

The only reasons for a participant to leave the Colon Screening Program are for age > 74 years, a diagnosis of colorectal adenocarcinoma and a diagnosis of ulcerative or Crohn's colitis. A diagnosis of ulcerative or Crohn's colitis cannot be determined from a pathology report alone and needs to be determined in discussion with the colonoscopist regarding other clinical findings. Individuals with Lynch Syndrome or adenomatous polyposis syndromes require screening for other malignancies and should also be managed outside the Colon Screening Program by a colonoscopist with expertise in hereditary colon cancer syndromes. All other participants should continue to be screened in the Colon Screening Program and if their screening needs to be individualized, then this can be done by citing a deviation and explanation on the Follow-Up Form.

While there may be an indication to do a colonoscopy at an earlier interval, there is never an indication to do a FIT at an earlier interval. If a colonoscopy is not high quality the participant should have a repeat colonoscopy as soon as possible and certainly within 1 year.

If the colonoscopist disagrees with the Colon Screening Program's recommendations and decides upon a different FIT follow-up interval for a participant who has undergone a high quality colonoscopy, then this will need to be arranged by the colonoscopist outside of the Colon Screening Program. Unfortunately, the primary care provider will receive two different recommendations - those in the colonoscopy report and those from the program.

Regarding participants with an abnormal FIT and a colonoscopy without a cancer or precancerous lesion, the participant will be recalled to undergo repeat FIT in 10 years. Follow-up Forms received by the program that indicate a deviation with FIT prior to the 10 year recall will not have the deviation entered and the follow-up letter to the colonoscopist, health authority staff and primary care provider will indicate rescreening or surveillance based on current guidelines.

Colonoscopies performed within the Colon Screening Program may reveal significant findings beyond the scope of the program. For instance, participants diagnosed with anal intraepithelial neoplasia or squamous cell carcinoma of the anus, carcinoid/neuroendocrine tumors, gastrointestinal stromal tumors, or Peutz-Jehger polyps. In this situation, the colonoscopist should either arrange follow-up or guide the primary care provider in the appropriate management. These participants will remain in the Colon Screening Program and be re-called at the appropriate interval for rescreening or surveillance as outlined in the Colonoscopy Standards.

#### 6. Quality Assurance

#### 6.1 Data Collection

Each colonoscopy unit will need a quality program in place. The Colon Screening Program has a central database where the performance indicators will be maintained and reported back to Health Authorities. By providing complete and accurate information on the relevant forms, health authority staff will help with appropriate data collection for performance indicator and participant outcome monitoring.

#### **6.2 Pre-Post Colonoscopy Assessment Performance Indicators**

- Number of participants not proceeding to colonoscopy due to poor medical fitness
- Compliance with follow-up colonoscopy
- Time from positive FIT to colonoscopy
- Time from referral to colonoscopy for surveillance procedures
- Number of participants deemed medically unfit by colonoscopist at time of colonoscopy (i.e. prepped for procedure but medically unfit)
- Bowel preparation quality
- Participant, primary care provider, colonoscopist satisfaction with pre-post colonoscopy assessment

## 7. Medical Record Retention Policy

The Health Authority is the primary record holder for documentation pertaining to pre and post colonoscopy assessment. Health Authorities follow their own policies with respect to record retention and documentation. The Colon Screening Program is a secondary user of the forms and records that are completed for program participants. Participants and providers requesting copies of screening records will be directed to obtain copies from the facility where the interaction occurred.

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## Appendix A – Referral Update Form

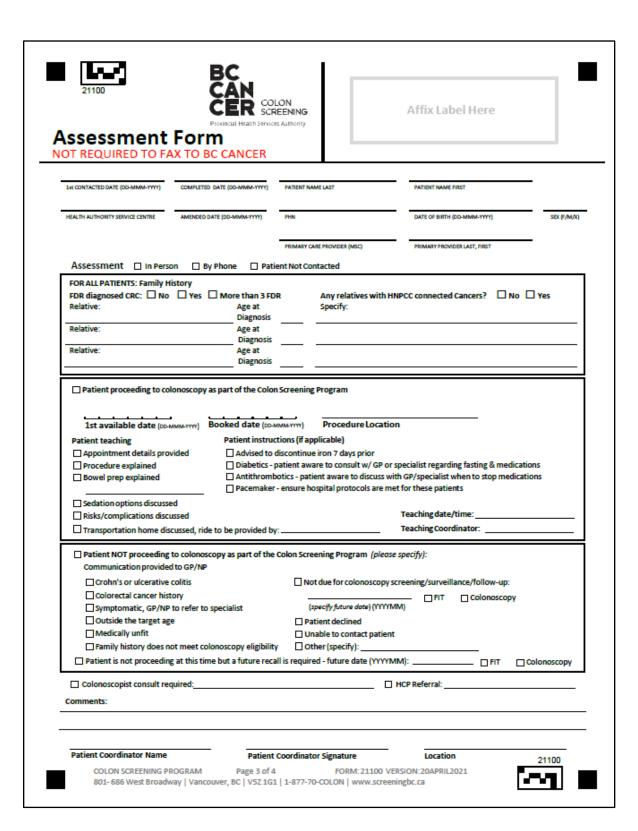
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FAX TOP COPY TO	COLON SCREE	NING PROGRAM: 1 (604	) 297-9340				
REFERRAL DATE (DD-MMM-Y	MAA	COAST STEP DATE (DD ASS	***	ATIENT NAME LAST	PATIENT NA	ARC CIDOT	SEVIE BANKON
REPERINAL DATE (DD-MMM-1	1111	COMPLETED DATE (DD-MI	MIM-TTTT)	ATTENT NAME LAST	PATIENT NA	IME FIRST	SEX (F/M/X/U)
HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICE	CENTRE	AMENDED DATE (DD-MMI	M-YYYY)	HN		DATE OF BIRTH (D	D-MMM-YYYY)
		•					
			Ĭ	RIMARY PROVIDER (MSC)	PRIMARY PROVIDER L	AST, FIRST	
ONLY ONE SECTION							
SECTION A: TR	ANSFER RE	QUEST (Within BC o	only) Complete	e only if referral require	es a transfer to anot	her service centr	re.
Transfer Request To	):						
	(Name o	f Hospital or City)					
Transfer Request	Med	ical Reason	Patient Pre	eference	Patient Address R	elated	
Reason:	Othe	er (Please specify):					
		PROCEEDING Con form patient not pr		tient is not proceeding ;	for further follow up	at your service	centre.
		ng/surveillance/follo		1			
		ng/ sur vernance/ rone	w up	If recall is e Recall for:	xpected, indicate	recall type and onoscopy	d future date:
Patient declined	deterred			<b>⊢</b> -/>	ture Date (MMM)		
Other:	biotom de				_		h
_		es not meet colonos not meet colonosco		1	_	vas not able to noved out of p	
_	-	wider to refer to spe				nas colorectal o	
		r follow up as deter	-				ulcerative colitis
Patient was alre	ady referre	d to a specialist for	colonoscopy o	utside of the progran	m Patient i	s deceased	
Genetic mutatio	n predispo	sing to colon cancer	(e.g. Lynch Sy	ndrome)			
		OOKED FOR COLONG		icating that the patient	t was not proceeding	g.	
			COMPL	ETED BY	SIGNA	ATURE	
Comments (Not car	ntured by a	rogram):					
Comments (Not Ca)	otarea by p	rogramj.					
				HIS FORM IS CONFIDENTIAL			20720
				S IN ERROR PLEASE FAX TO PT: 1 (604) 675-7223		[	_66

# Appendix B – Assessment Form

DATE OF BRITH (NYMMMOD)   PATIENT NAME (AST   PATIENT NAME FRRST
Allerts for Colonoscopy:  Antithrombotics Glaucoma Allergies/sensitivities Defibrillator/Pacemaker COPD No blood transfusions Renal insufficiency/dialysis  Comments:    Reason for Colonoscopy Assessment:
Allerts for Colonoscopy:
Antithrombotics
Medication  Dose Freq.
Symptoms (within last 6 months) No Yes Comments  BM Frequency (specify)  Recent changes in bowel habits  Diarrhea
Symptoms (within last 6 months) No Yes Comments BM Frequency (specify) Recent changes in bowel habits Diarrhea
Symptoms (within last 6 months) No Yes Comments BM Frequency (specify) Recent changes in bowel habits Diarrhea
Symptoms (within last 6 months) No Yes Comments BM Frequency (specify) Recent changes in bowel habits Diarrhea
BM Frequency (specify)  Recent changes in bowel habits  Diarrhea
Recent changes in bowel habits Diarrhea
Constipation
Rectal bleeding
Bowel urgency Bowel urgency
Unexplained weight loss
Abdominal pain
Upper GI Symptoms (eg. N&V,



PATIENT NAME LAST	PATIENT	NAME	FIRST PHN		DATE OF BIRTH (YYYYMMDD)
Medical History	No	Yes	Comments		
Gastrointestinal (eg. Ulcers,					
Barrets, Hiatus hernia, Diverticular disease) Hx colonoscopy or flexible	+				
sigmoidoscopy					
Surgery (eg.Abdominal and other)					
Cardiac					
(eg.A. Fib, Pacemaker, ICD, CHF)	_				
Hypertension					
Respiratory					
(eg.Sleep apnea, asthma, COPD)					
Liver					
Renal (eg.document eGFR <60ml/min, creatinine >100umol/L, if known)					
Diabetes (eg.Type 1/2, Insulin, oral Hypoglycaemic)					
Glaucoma					
Neurological (e.g. Epilepsy, Stroke, MS,					
Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, dementia, etc.)					
Cancer					
Bleeding disorder					
Blood transfusion concerns (eg.Jehovah's witness)					
Problems with sedation or anaesthesia					
Comments / Other Medical Concer	ns:		•		
-					
Patient lives: Alone	With (S	pecify)	:		
Do you consider yourself to h	ave a d	isabili	ity? 🗆 No 🔲 Ye	s	
☐ Mental health difficulty ☐	Dyslex	ia 📮	Mobility Prog	gressive disability	(eg MS) Learning disab
			Other (specify):		
Smoker: No Yes #				ate (approximate	?):
Recreational or illicit Drug Use		_			Frequency:
			Tes Substance.	BMI:	_



CER S	COLON CREENING AS	ssessment F	orm	Affix Label Here
PATIENT N	IAME LAST	PATIENT NAME FIRST	PHN	DATE OF BIRTH (YYYYMMDD)
Date	Notes			
-				
-+				

## Appendix C – Colonoscopy Brochure



Are there any risks with colonoscopy?

As with any medical procedure, colonoscopy has a small risk of complications.

Approximately 5/1,000 people will have a serious Approximately 5/1,000 people will have a serious complication. Complications can include a reaction to the bowel preparation or medication used for sedation, heart or lung problems, an infection, bleeding from the colon and/or perforation of the colon (hole in the colon).

If a complication occurs, treatment including antibiotics, blood transfusion, hospitalization, repeat colonoscopy or surgery may be required. The risk of dying from colonoscopy is less than 1/14,000. There is also a risk of missing a significant abnormality. This occurs in less than 1/10 cases.

Certain cancers may never cause any symptoms or affect life expectancy or quality of life. However, research shows that most colon cancers are harmful and that colon cancer should be detected and treated as early as possible.





#### Colonoscopy

An abnormal fecal immunochemical test (FIT) result; or,

A personal history of adenomas. Adenomas are a type of precancerous polyp; or, One first degree relative (parent, sibling or child) with colon cancer diagnosed under the age of 60; or.\*

#### Contact Us

BC Cancer Colon Screening 801-686 West Broadway Vancouver, BC V5Z 1G1

Phone: 1-877-702-6566 Email: screening@bccancer.bc.ca Web: www.screeningbc.ca/colon



#### Before the colonoscopy

- Expect to be at the hospital for two to three
- You will be asked to change into a gown.
- A nurse will complete your admission history and measure your vital signs.

- You will be asked to provide a list of your
- A nurse will start an intravenous (IV) to administer sedation and pain medication.

#### What happens during a colonoscopy?

- A colonoscopist inserts the colonoscope into the rectum and advances it along the length of the colon.
- · Air is sent through the colonoscope to expand the colon for better viewing. It is normal throughout the procedure to feel slight pressure or experience cramps.
- Images of the lining of the rectum and colon are sent to a video monitor where the colonoscopist will look for anything unusual, like a polyp. A polyp is a small growth of tissue on the wall of the
- Polyps can grow very slowly, and some can become cancerous. It may be necessary to take a sample (biopsy) or remove the polyp (polypectomy). This is painless.
- The biopsy or polyp is then sent to a lab for

#### What happens after a colonoscopy?

- Have an adult accompany you home. You cannot drive until the following day.
- You may be sleepy after you arrive home from the procedure. It is recommended that you do not operate equipment, sign legal papers or drink alcohol until the following day.
- You will be able to resume your regular diet and medications after your colonoscopy, unless otherwise directed by the health care team in your community.
- The air inside your colon may cause you to feel bloated and/or have cramping after the procedure. It is important to relax and pass the air as soon as possible. If this discomfort increases or is unrelieved, go to the emergency department and advise them that you had a colonoscopy. colonoscopy.

You will be closely monitored before, during and after the procedure.

#### What do I need to know about my colonoscopy results?

You will be given preliminary results before you leave the hospital. Then, approximately two weeks after your procedure, the health care team in your community will inform you of your complete results and answer your questions during the follow up call. Your doctor will also receive your results.

If your colonoscopy is normal, your family history will determine when you will be re-screened. The health care team in your community will advise you of your next screening date.

If your colonoscopy is abnormal, further procedures or more regular surveillance may be necessary. The health care team in your community, or your doctor will explain the process for further appointments and

## Appendix D – Sample Not Proceeding to Colonoscopy Letter

De	ar Dr Fa	ax #	Date	
Pat	tient Name	PHN	DOB	
1.	Your patient was referred for pre-c	colonoscopy assessme	nt on	_ (date) due to:
	Abnormal FIT □ Family F	distory 🗆 S	Surveillance Requireme	nt
2.	Your patient has <u>NOT</u> been booke	d for a colonoscopy pro	ocedure due to:	
	Patient has a history of inflammatory bow his/her specialist for ongoing care and m Program.			
	Patient has a history of colorectal cancer monitoring. The patient will not be recalled			ongoing care and
	Patient indicated symptoms. Please reference to the recalled by the Colon Screening F		specialist for assessmer	nt. The patient will
	Medically unfit for colonoscopy. Colonoscopy Program will recall the patient at that time Screening Program. The patient was ass	e. If no date is indicated,	the patient will not be re	called by the Colon
	Family history information does not meet Please provide a requisition for FIT scree of colonoscopy.			
	Your patient does not meet eligibility for on the patient will be recalled by the Program			
	Patient declined proceeding to colonoscopy please send the Program a Colonoscopy  The patient has elected to defer their	Referral Form.		scopy in the future,
	We were unable to reach your patient to patient to advise that they have not been Colon Screening Program. If the patient Colonoscopy Referral Form.	booked for a colonoscop	y. The patient will not b	e recalled by the
	Patient is required to be scoped outside	of the Colon Screening P	rogram.	
Sin	ncerely,			
	LON SCREENING PROGRAM one: Fax:			APRIL 2021
LIIC	one: Fax:			

## Appendix E – Bowel Preparation Algorithm



# Colon Screening Program Bowel Preparation Guidelines

### **Bowel Preparations**

#### **High Volume Low Volume Low Volume** (4L PEG) (PEG /2L PEG) (Hyperosmolar) Consider for: Examples: Examples: Constipation · Bi-PegLyte (do not take PicoSalax · Purg-Odan Bisacodyl) · Previous poor preparation MoviPrep Narcotic use KleanLyte · Poor mobility Morbid obesity Examples: CoLyte PegLyte

#### Split-dose regimens are preferred.

PEG-based regimens are the preferred preparation for:

- Age > 65 years
- · Diuretic use
- · Renal insuciency (GFR< 60)
- Diabetes
- Congestive heart disease
- · Liver cirrhosis or ascites

Adjuncts (bisacodyl, magnesium citrate, enemas) are not recommended for standard bowel preparations.

Participants requiring a repeat colonoscopy due to a poor preparation should have their preparation directed by the colonoscopist.

#### References:

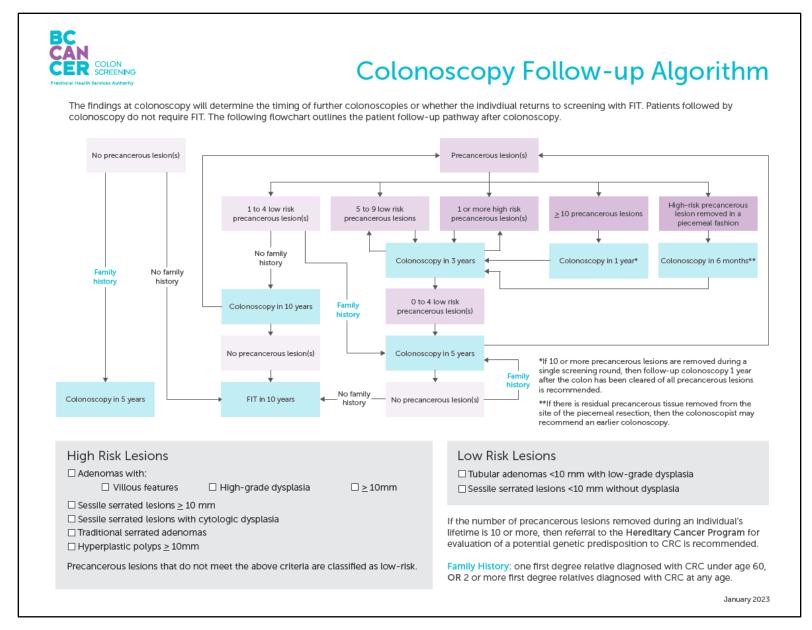
Optimizing adequacy of bowel cleansing for colonoscopy: recommendations from the US Multi-Society Task Force on Colorectal Cancer. Gastrointestinal Endoscopy 2014;80:543-562.

Version: December 2022

# Appendix F – Pre/Post Colonoscopy Unplanned Event Form

Pre/Post Colonoscopy CER SCHEDNIG CER SCHEDNIG Unplanned Event FAX THIS PAGE TO COLON SCREENING PROGRAM: 1 (604) 297-9340	DO NOT PLACE LABEL ABOVE LINE  AFFIX CLIENT LABEL HERE
EXAM DATE: COLONOSCOPY (YYYYMMDD)	PHN DATE OF BIRTH (YYYYMMDD)
FOLLOW UP DATE (YYYYMMDD)  AMENDED DATE (YYYYMMDD)	PATIENT NAME LAST PATIENT NAME FIRST SEX (F/M/X)
COLONOSCOPIST (MSC) COLONOSCOPIST LAST, FIRST	PRIMARY PROVIDER (MSC) PRIMARY PROVIDER LAST, FIRST
	DATE OF RESOLUTION (YYYYMMDD)
The day prior to, or within 14 days after undergoing a	colonoscopy, this patient had these uplanned event(s):
☐ Bowel prep complication	☐ Perforation
☐ Rectal bleeding → Anticoagulation: ○ No ○ Yes	☐ Respiratory
☐ Infection	☐ Cardiac
☐ Death:	Other:
Cause of death:	_
Comments:	
Patient first obtained medical attention:	(YYYYMMDD)
☐ Family Physician ☐ Emergency Room	(YYYMMDD)    Other:
Patient required the following interventions: (check all	
☐ Blood transfusion ☐ Additional Co	olonoscopy: (YYYYMMDD)
☐ Antibiotics ☐ Other:	(YYYYMMDD)
☐ Surgery: ☐ Hospital adm	nission:to(YYYYMMDD)
Comments:	
-	
Patient Coordinator Name	Patient Coordinator Signature
COLON SCREENING PROGRAM Page 1 of 1 801-686 West Broadway   Vancouver, BC   V5Z 1G1   1-877-70	FORM: 20620 VERSION: 12DECEMBER2019 D-COLON   www.screeningbc.ca

### Appendix G - Colonoscopy Follow-up Algorithm



# Appendix H – Follow-Up Form

CAN	ONOSCO				CLIENT LABEL		
POUR SCREENING FOLL	OW UP	FORM		ALLIA	CLILIVI LADEL	HERE	
FAX THIS PAGE TO COLON SCREE	ENING PROGRA	M: 1 (604) 297-9340					
EXAM DATE: COLONOSCOPY (DD-MMM-YYY	Υ)		PATIENT NAME LAST		PATIENT NAME FIR	ST	SEX (F/M/X/U
OLLOW UP DATE (DD-MMM-YYYY)	AMENDED DAT	E (DD-MMM-YYYY)	PHN		DATE	OF BIRTH (DD-MM	M-YYYY)
COLONOSCPIST (MSC) COLONOSCOPI	IST LAST, FIRST		PRIMARY PROVIDER	(MSC) PRIM	IARY PROVIDER LAST, FIR	ST	
LOCUM FOR:							
COLONOSCOPIST (MSC) COLONOSCOPI	IST LAST, FIRST		-				
4 FARMLY LIICTORY INCORNA	TION			[	☐ For Partial Foll	ow Up compl	ete Section 2
<ol> <li>FAMILY HISTORY INFORMA First degree relative with CRC:</li> </ol>		'es					
						> 3 FDR	
Relative Ag	je	Relative	Age	Relative	Age		
2. UNPLANNED EVENTS Did the patient require med	lical attentic	on the day prior to	procedure or up	to 14 days a	fter colonoscopy	?	
☐ Yes: Complete Unplanned E	vent Form	□ No □ Un	able to contact				
3a. RECOMMENDATIONS (Sele	ect one option	below)			151	CONTACT DATE (	DD-MMM-YYYY
The following are standard				_			
☐ Colonoscopy in 10 years		☐ Colonoscopy	-		FIT in 10 years		
Colonoscopy in 5 years		Colonoscopy	in 6 months		FIT in 5 years (P	ost normal CT	C only)
If an alternate interval is be	ing recomm	ended, complete t	the following:				
☐ Colonoscopy in	months o						
Incomplete vieualization			d on entire screer	ing episode	☐ Other:		
☐ Incomplete visualization ☐ Inadequate bowel pr	reparation	(IIICIUSIVE OI 6	all procedures)				
☐ Inadequate bowel pr ☐ Cecum not intubated	•	> 10 pre-cand					
☐ Inadequate bowel pr	•						
☐ Inadequate bowel pr ☐ Cecum not intubated ☐ Other: ☐ OTHER PROGRAM S	SCREENING	□ > 10 pre-cand		3c. ADDITIO	ONAL PROCEDUR	es to occur	
☐ Inadequate bowel pr ☐ Cecum not intubated ☐ Other: ☐ OTHER PROGRAM S ☐ Colorectal adenocarcinor	GCREENING ma identified	□ > 10 pre-cand		3c. ADDITIO	ONAL PROCEDURI C, surgery):		
☐ Inadequate bowel pr ☐ Cecum not intubated ☐ Other: ☐ Other: ☐ Sb. NO FURTHER PROGRAM S☐ Colorectal adenocarcinon ☐ Ulcerative colitis or Crohr	GCREENING ma identified	□ > 10 pre-cand		3c. ADDITIO	ONAL PROCEDUR		
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# Appendix I – Colonoscopy Reporting Form

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EXAM DAT	E (YYYYMMDI	D)	_	START	тіме (н	RS)	_	PHN				DA	ATE OF BIRTH	(YYYYMMDD)	
FACILITY N	AME		-	AMEN	DED DAT	E (YYYYM	IMDD)	PAT	IENT NAME LA	ST		PATIENT NAM	IE FIRST		SEX (M/F/X
COLONOSC	OPIST (MSC)	COLON	NOSCOPI	ST LAST	, FIRST			PRIN	MARY PROVIDE	R (MSC) F	RIMARY PRO	VIDER LAST,	FIRST		
		oscopy (sel ily History		-	illanc	e 🗆	Deviation		son Colono No Show fo				): ally unfit	day of pr	ocedure
☐ Exc	(adequa	☐ Good te to visua uate to vi	alize al	e all p		> 5mr	n)	   4. SP	ECIMENS T	oto docum Uncertair	entation? Yes 🗆 No	□ No □ Fle	☐ Yes xible Sigm	noidoscop	linutes)
☐ Blee	foration eding diovascul piratory	ar 🗆	Admi Rever Deatl Othe	t to h rsal a	ospita gents			5.00	OMMENTS 1	O PATHOL	ugis I:			, iv	
	Specimen Type	Location	<u>*</u> 5	8lz:	10-19	≥ 20	Morphology	Primary Removal Mode	Submucosal Injection (Y/N)	Plecemeal (Y/N)	Complete Removal (Y/N/U)	Complete Retrieval (Y/N/U)	Specimen Sent (Y/N/#)	Time	Initials
Example	Р	Т		<b>√</b>			P	HS	Y	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	14:00	AB
1/A 2/B				_	_	<del>                                     </del>			+						
3/C			_		—	<del>                                     </del>	$\vdash$		+						
4/D			_		_	<del>                                     </del>			+				<u> </u>		
5/E			_			_			+				<u> </u>		
7. □ Re	peat Colo	pecimens onoscopy I OLONOSCO	Requir	ed				B = b P = p Y = y	coimen Typ lopsles olypectomy res N = no uncertain	A = ascer C = cecur I = lleum O = other R = rectu	nding colon n D = descer L = left col	F=1 ding M= on O= P=1	rphology flat mass other pedunculated sessile	Remova BF = blops CS = cold HB = hot b HS = hot s	y forceps snare lopsy forceps
MD NAN	IE:		S	IGNAT	URE:				RN NAME	:		SIGNA	TURE:		
		PATHOLOG		ORT T					3.			4.			
Fax	#: 1(604)	297 9340	_			ry Provi	ider (Name 8	k MSC#)		ther (Name	& MSC#)		her (Name 8	& MSC#)	
Spe		ing required					imples sent t		_	_	TIALS		TE:		_
		]No □	Yes	$\rightarrow$			imples transi imples receiv		ab:	_	TIALS		TE: TE:		

# **Log Revision History**

Pre-Post Colonoscopy Assessment Standards							
Change Log Revision History							
Version	Date	Action	Pages Affected	Details			
1.0	May 2014						
	May 2015						
	March 2016						
1.1	November 2017	Updated	ALL	<ul> <li>Format updated based on the Colonoscopy Standards</li> <li>Title of document from "Patient Coordinator Standards" to "Pre-Post Colonoscopy Assessment Standards"</li> <li>Page numbers added to the Table of Contents. Titles and section numbers updated</li> <li>Dr. Telford Updated Standards. (p. 4-7, 13, 15, 16)</li> <li>References and Appendices matched and added based on the updated standards.</li> </ul>			
1.2	January 2018	Addition	6,17	Added statement on confirming participants PCP Added Medical Records Retention policy			
1.3	March 2018	Updated	All	New Logo/Branding			
1.4	April 2018	Updated	19-24	Updated Appendices			
1.5	July 2019	Addition	14	Added requirement for two methods of contact for follow up phone call to participant with time interval, and example			
1.6	August 2019	Updated	Section 3.1 Section 5.1	Remove above addition and incorporate minimum contact for assessment standard.			
1.7	September 2019	Updated	Section 5.1	Added requirement for two methods of contact for follow up phone call to participant with time interval, and example			
1.8	April 2020	Updated	Sections 1.5, 2.2, 3.2,	Clarify eligibility and when colonoscopy should proceed. Assessment when on Antithrombotic Therapy updated.			
1.9	October 2021	Updated	Appendices H, I	Clarify eligibility and update process for Referral Update Form and new Follow-up Form. Added two appendices.			
2.0	September 2022	Updated	All	Change language to pre-cancerous lesions, update anti-thrombotic information, new GPAC guidelines			
2.1	September 2023	Updated	Section 3.1	Added Severe Aortic Stenosis to Significant co- morbid medical illnesses			

			Section 3.2	Added Acetylsalicylic Acid under Antiplatelet agents
			Section 3.4	Added Table to display the recommended anti- hyperglycemic agent dose modification
			Section 5.3  References	Changed Colorectal Cancer to colorectal adenocarcinoma, Attenuated Familial Adenomatous Polyposis changed to adenomatous polyposis syndromes, Polyps changed to precancerous lesions, Carcinoid tumors changed to carcinoid/neuroendocrine tumors  Added new reference - Chirila A, et al
2.2	March 2024	Updated	Section 1.5	Updated Date. Added the word "full" to sibling.
2.3	April 2024	Updated	All Appendix G	Updated header Changed Orientation
2.4	January 2025	Updated	Section 3.1	Include precancerous lesion count as part of pre-colonoscopy assessment and include as an alert to colonoscopist.
			Section 1.1	Removed sentence stating NHA excluded from CSP.
			Appendix E	Updated Bowel Preparation Algorithm with new version
2.5	February 2025	Updated	Section 1.5	Clarify family history criteria affected relatives for the basis of start age of screening.
2.6	April 2025	Updated	Section 3.4	Corrected spelling from Glicalazide to Gliclazide