



Halton Healthcare

NEWS RELEASE

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Ontario Breast Screening Program Expands at Halton Healthcare Services

Women in the Halton Region can now access the Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP) through any of Halton Healthcare Services' (HHS) three community hospitals. As of July 2014, Milton District Hospital (MDH) and Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH) were established as new Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP) Sites. In addition, Georgetown Hospital, (GH) which was already an OBSP Screening Site, has been elevated to an Assessment Centre.

"We are very excited about being approved as OBSP Sites at MDH and OTMH," explains Dr. Jillian Feberwee, Lead Radiologist for Women's Imaging at HHS. "This designation allows us to expand and further enhance our program in line with our patient centred care philosophy."

Under the direction of Cancer Care Ontario, OBSP Sites provide high-quality breast cancer screening for women aged 50 to 74 years. OBSP Sites are accredited by the Canadian Association of Radiologists and the Program requires very stringent timelines, if further testing, such as a biopsy is required.

Women can self-refer (without a referral from their healthcare practitioner) to an OBSP centre, knowing that they will receive their results within two weeks of their screening appointment. They will also be prompted with a reminder letter when it is time to return for their next screening mammogram. If needed, the centre will follow-up and help patients book extra tests or referrals.

Halton Healthcare Services' (HHS) Georgetown Hospital has been affiliated with OBSP as a Screening Site since 2002, providing 2,132 OBSP screening visits in 2013/2014. As of July 2014, GH was expanded to an OBSP Assessment Site.

"Approximately 10 per cent of women who undergo breast cancer screening will be called back for further tests and follow-up. The path that women follow from the time they find out they may have an abnormality, until the time they have a definitive diagnosis is called "Breast Assessment," explains Dr. Feberwee. "Becoming OBSP Assessment Centre provides our patients with yet another layer of quality assurance that they are receiving the highest care possible. It ensures a timely, high quality diagnosis and follow-up along with patient education and emotional support."

Each patient at an OBSP Assessment Site is assigned a caregiver who will serve as both their point of contact and their advocate throughout their entire assessment process. This ensures that every patient is carefully followed, tracked and supported in negotiating the healthcare system.

"At HHS, we have always had a practice of prioritizing all breast related imaging, so that the most suspicious cases are provided with expedited care," notes Dr. Robert Yu, HHS Chief of Diagnostic Imaging. "We offer complete Breast Assessment services, including digital mammography, breast ultrasound and breast MRI, and we work as a collaborative team with the Pathology and Surgical Departments, to provide the best possible outcomes, from screening to definitive surgery. Having an Assessment Centre at Georgetown Hospital helps us further enhance the quality and timeliness of this care."

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Ontario Breast Screening Program Expands at HHS

Cancer Care Ontario established the OBSP Program in 1990 with the goal of reducing breast cancer deaths in Ontario through an organized provincial breast screening program.

HHS is a progressive, multi-site healthcare organization comprised of three community hospitals - Georgetown Hospital (GH), Milton District Hospital (MDH) and Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH). Together these hospitals provide healthcare services to more than 300,000 residents in the communities of Oakville, Milton and Halton Hills. With an outstanding reputation as a workplace of choice and a good community partner, HHS hospitals have been recognized for their best practices in a number of patient safety and patient care initiatives. In 2013, HHS was Accredited with Exemplary Standing - the highest possible status granted by Accreditation Canada.

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