



GLEN MURRAY, MPP

Toronto Centre

For immediate release

June 28, 2011

Toronto Hospitals To Offer High Risk Breast Cancer Screening *McGuinty Government Expanding Life-Saving Screening For More Women*

Starting July 1, Toronto-area women who are at a high risk for breast cancer will have access to services at the Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP) High Risk Screening Centres at Princess Margaret Hospital, St. Michael's Hospital and Women's College Hospital.

The OBSP High Risk Screening Centres will provide women 30-69 years old who are at high risk of breast cancer with annual mammography and breast MRI screening as well as follow up services. Genetic centres across the province will provide the genetic services.

Women who think they may be at high risk can visit their doctor or nurse practitioner for a referral to the OBSP. Referrals will be based on [specific criteria](#) such as genetics, and family or medical history.

Expanding breast screening is based on the advice of clinical experts and best medical evidence. This move is part of the government's Open Ontario Plan to provide more access to health care services while improving quality and accountability for patients.

QUOTES

"Our government is proud to invest in breast cancer screening for women across Ontario. As we continue to strengthen our public health care system, the OBSP High Risk Screening Centres at Princess Margaret Hospital, St. Michael's Hospital, and Women's College Hospital will help more women beat breast cancer through early detection. We're delivering on our government's commitment to improve health care in Ontario."

- **Glen Murray, MPP (Toronto Centre) and Minister of Research and Innovation**

"Women's health is a priority for St. Michael's Hospital. Today's announcement will not only improve early detection of breast cancer among women, but will also help save lives. St. Michael's is proud to be part of our government's continued commitment to cancer screening and care."

- **Dr. Ralph George, Medical Director of the CIBC Breast Centre at St. Michael's Hospital**

“For the women of this province, expanding the Ontario Breast Screening Program is excellent news. Early detection of breast cancer saves lives. Regular breast screening means early detection, more treatment options, and improved survival. It’s an important program and we’re proud to be part of it, improving health-care delivery to women.”

- Dr. Mary Gospodarowicz, Medical Director, Princess Margaret Cancer Program at University Health Network

“Women’s College Hospital is proud to be part of the Ontario Breast Screening Program expansion. Offering not only mammography but also breast MRI screening to women at risk will increase the number of early detected breast cancers. Early detection and early treatment are key to increased survival potential for our patients.”

- Dr. Heidi Roberts, Site Director for Medical Imaging, Women's College Hospital

QUICK FACTS

- Princess Margaret Hospital, St. Michael’s Hospital and Women’s College Hospital are three of the first 19 High Risk Screening Centres in the province
- Women who are at high risk (less than one per cent of Ontario females) have a 25 per cent or greater lifetime risk of developing breast cancer.
- Regular screening, combined with greater self-awareness and improvements in treatment, has been shown to save lives. In fact, deaths from breast cancer have been reduced by up to one third.
- To date, the OBSP has provided over 3.6 million screens and detected more than 19,000 cancers, the majority in the early stages. These high risk centres will help to provide 90,000 more breast screens over the next three years.
- Since October 2006, Ontario has funded 35 new cancer drug products, five of which are for breast cancer.

LEARN MORE

Read about the [Ontario Breast Screening Program expansion](#).

Find out more about [breast screening and the OBSP](#).

Office of the Hon. Glen Murray, MPP, 416-972-7683
Jane Finlayson, University Health Network, 416-946-2846
Julie Saccone, St. Michael’s Hospital, 416-864-5047
Teresa Mostert, Women’s College Hospital, 416-323-6400 ext. 3210