Improving access to timely cancer screening to reduce disparities in cancer screening rates between IPHCO clients and provincial benchmarks

- **Organization:** Misiway Milopemahtesewin Health Centre
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Overview

Misiway Milopemahtesewin Health Centre's quality improvement initiative focuses on increasing completion of recommended cancer screening among eligible Indigenous clients. Following the organization's transition from a Community Health Centre to an Indigenous Primary Health Care Organization on April 1, 2026, the team identified the need to update EMR fields, improve data collection and strengthen reporting so screening completion and offers of screening could be tracked accurately. The project aims to improve access to timely, culturally safe cancer screening, reduce disparities between IPHCO screening rates and provincial benchmarks, and support clients through proactive follow-up, navigation, respectful conversations and innovative screening delivery approaches.

Key Elements of Initiative

Change Ideas Tested or Implemented

Updated EMR fields; created data collection reports; standardized labelling of incoming results; improved recall processes for clients due for cancer screening; developed a colorectal cancer screening algorithm; planned quarterly screening audits; added cancer screening as a standing monthly clinic meeting agenda item; began planning for a Clinical Patient Navigator role; planned engagement with the Elders' Advisory Committee to develop a culturally safe conversation guide; and explored traditionally grounded screening approaches, including women's health days.

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Objective of Change Ideas

Improve data quality and reporting, identify clients overdue for screening, clarify team roles, support targeted recalls, reduce barriers to screening completion, and create more respectful, culturally safe screening conversations and service delivery options.

Team Members Involved

Data Management Coordinator; Provincial Quality Decision Support Specialist at the Indigenous Primary Health Care Council; clinical team; administrative team; leadership; Elders' Advisory Committee; and planned Clinical Patient Navigator

Target Population

- Eligible Indigenous clients of Misiway Milopemahtesewin Health Centre who are due for recommended cancer screening.

Measurement Progress

Progress will be monitored through EMR reports, screening recall lists, quarterly screening audits, review of screening completion versus screening offers, and monthly team discussions to identify successes, challenges and refinements.

Implementation Experience: Successes & Challenges

Results/Early Wins

The team established stronger foundations for the initiative by improving the reliability of cancer screening data, strengthening processes to identify clients overdue for screening, and developing a clearer colorectal screening recall process.

Enablers of Success





Collaboration across leadership, clinical, administrative and data roles helped align EMR requirements, reporting, outreach and client-centred service delivery. Standing monthly clinic agenda time created a regular forum for monitoring progress and refining workflows.

Challenges and Solutions

Updating EMR fields is ongoing and requires dedicated staffing, which is challenging with limited resources. The team is addressing this by working with IPHCC support, using audits to verify report accuracy, clarifying roles through algorithms and planning navigation support to reduce client barriers.

Advice for Other Teams: Build reliable data and reporting processes early, clarify roles across the interdisciplinary team, create regular opportunities to review progress, and involve community voices to ensure screening conversations and delivery models are culturally safe and responsive.

Future Steps & Sustainability

Next Steps and Embedding into Practice

Next Steps: Develop algorithms for all cancer screening tests; use improved data and audit processes to support targeted recalls; implement navigation support; complete and integrate the culturally safe screening conversation guide; and continue exploring culturally grounded screening delivery approaches, such as traditionally grounded women's health days.

Embedding into Practice: The initiative will be sustained by embedding screening algorithms into routine workflows, maintaining quarterly audits, using monthly clinic meetings for ongoing monitoring and refinement, and integrating navigation and culturally safe conversation tools into everyday care.

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