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## **SASKATCHEWAN CANCER AGENCY**

### **IMPROVED PROCESSES TO ENSURE CLIENTS RECEIVE COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING TEST**

The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency is reinforcing its commitment to providing the very best in population-based cancer screening for people in this province by improving processes to ensure all eligible men and women receive a colorectal cancer screening kit.

In March 2015 the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency's Screening Program for Colorectal Cancer became aware that since the start of the program in September 2009, 7,472 individuals in the target population group had not been sent a fecal immunochemical test (FIT). All of these individuals have since been sent a FIT.

"We know that screening and early detection play an important role in patient outcomes and we regret that an IT system error missed sending some clients a FIT kit for colorectal cancer screening," said Dr. Jon Tonita, Vice President of Population Health, Quality and Research at the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency. "We are working to improve our systems and make the necessary changes to ensure people have the opportunity to fully participate in the program."

The Screening Program for Colorectal Cancer has now added a monthly audit check to its processes to ensure that all men and women eligible to participate in the program receive a colorectal cancer screening kit.

Individuals between the ages of 50-74 who want to participate in the program but have not received a FIT can contact the Screening Program for Colorectal Cancer at 1-855-292-2202.

For information on the Screening Program for Colorectal Cancer visit [www.saskcancer.ca](http://www.saskcancer.ca).

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## BACKGROUNDER

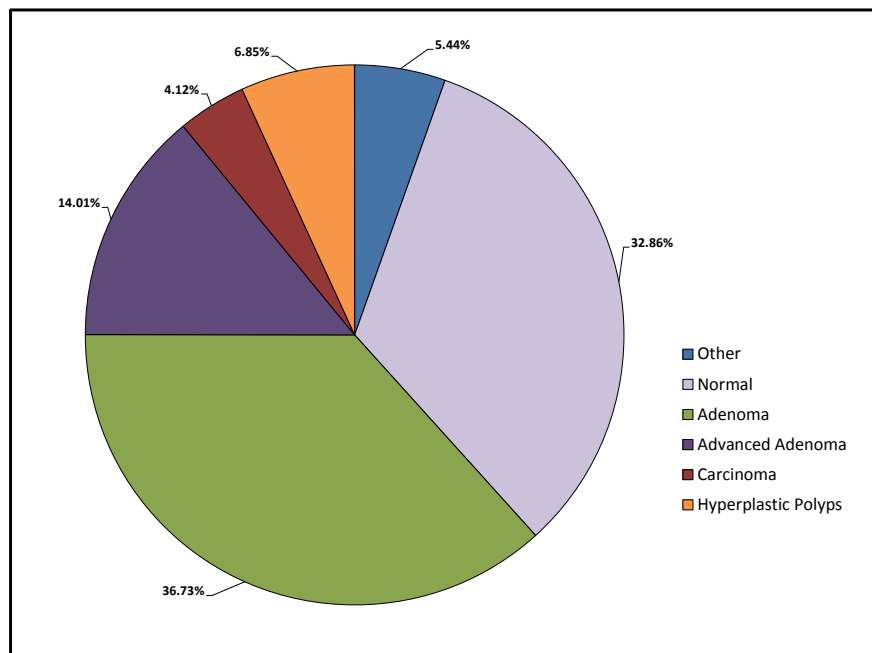
### Colorectal Cancer in Saskatchewan

- Colorectal cancer is the second most commonly diagnosed cancer in men and third most diagnosed in women. It is also the second leading cause of death from the disease.
- In 2015 there is estimated to be 770 new cases of colorectal cancer in Saskatchewan and an estimated 280 people in the province will die from the disease.
- At least 90 per cent of colorectal cancer can be prevented or successfully treated if caught early.

### Screening Program for Colorectal Cancer

- The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency launched the Screening Program for Colorectal Cancer in September 2009 in the Five Hills Health Region. Starting the program in one region allowed the Agency to thoroughly review and evaluate the program before it expanded to other health regions. The Prince Albert Parkland Health Region was the final region to offer the program (February 2013).
- The program uses the FIT (fecal immunochemical test) to screen for colorectal cancer. The FIT does not require any modifications to diet or drug therapy and requires only a single sample.
- The target population in Saskatchewan consists of approximately 300,000 men and women between the ages of 50 and 74. An estimated 150,000 invitations are sent out annually from the program. Individuals receive their first FIT in the year they turn 50.
- The number of people who have completed at least one FIT between April 2013 and March 2015 is 148,466.
- Currently Saskatchewan has the highest participation rate of any Canadian province at 48.9 per cent.
- Individuals with an abnormal (positive) FIT result are referred for a follow up colonoscopy.

### Colonoscopy Results on FIT Positive Patients from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2014



Cancers (carcinoma) are found in approximately four per cent of people with an abnormal (positive) FIT result. In addition, just over 50 per cent of people with an abnormal FIT are found to have adenomas (polyps), many of which would eventually lead to cancer if undiagnosed. Removing the polyps prevents the progression to cancer, which in turn reduces the incidence of and rate of mortality from colorectal cancer.