

Headwaters introduces Ontario Breast Screening Program

Headwaters Health Care Centre has announced that it will soon be home to an affiliate centre of the Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP).

An expansion of the hospital's existing mammography service, the new program officially launched at Headwaters last Thursday. Operated by Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) and funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, OBSP is a province-wide organized breast screening program designed to ensure Ontario women receive the benefits of regular screening, with the aim of increasing regular screenings and earlier diagnoses. Hospitals selected to participate in the program must meet a set of rigorous criteria, including accreditation through the Canadian Association of Radiologists Mammography Accreditation Program ? a prerequisite for affiliation with the OBSP, which Headwaters obtained in 2017.

?We see our new affiliation with OBSP as another endorsement of the quality care we are proud to deliver at Headwaters every day, as well as an incredible opportunity to further support the health and wellness of our community,? said Peter Varga, vice-president of patient care and chief nursing executive. ?The OBSP also directly aligns with our vision to provide exceptional care, closer to home by allowing local women to self-refer to these important services.?

For many eligible women in the area, the addition of the new OBSP may translate into easier access to routine breast screening, by affording patients the chance to self-refer. This feature will be of particular benefit for those without a family physician.

As with the previous process for mammography at Headwaters, staff will perform the OBSP mammograms. The results will be read by Headwaters radiologists. All Ontario women between the ages of 50 and 74 are eligible for the OBSP, providing they have had no acute breast symptoms, no personal history of breast cancer or breast implants. Women with these factors, as well as those older than 74, are encouraged to consult with their family physician about continued screening. All eligible women, including those who are currently attending another OBSP affiliate location, can now come to Headwaters for their next and future biennial routine OBSP mammography examinations. Headwaters will make the necessary arrangements to have any previous mammography studies, including those completed at another OBSP centre, transferred to Headwaters.

The new service is now booking its first clients. To book an appointment, or obtain more information, contact the Headwaters Health Care Diagnostic Imaging Department directly at 519-941-2702, ext. 3001.