Colorectal Cancer Comprehensive Assessment and Rapid Evaluation Pathway (CRC CARE Path)

For patients and families

Read this guide to learn:

• About the Colorectal Cancer Comprehensive Assessment and Rapid Evaluation Pathway (CRC CARE Path)
• The benefits of the CRC CARE Path
• The medical staff involved in the CRC CARE Path
**What is the CRC CARE Path?**

The CRC CARE Path is the one place to come for all the tests and appointments needed to find out if you have cancer. A diagnosis of cancer can be made or ruled out in a timely way.

If you have cancer, the CRC CARE Path streamlines care to improve your journey from diagnosis to treatment and recovery.

**Where is the CRC CARE Path located?**

**Colorectal Assessment Clinic**  
Toronto Western Hospital  
East Wing – 4th floor  
The Clinic is open Monday to Friday, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The CRC CARE Path is not available at every hospital. The CRC CARE Path at Toronto Western Hospital serves all patients in the Toronto South Central LHIN (Local Health Integration Network).

**What does the CRC CARE Path provide?**

The CRC CARE Path provides compassionate care that is focused on your needs, including:

- ✓ easy and timely access to services and a team of health professionals
- ✓ personalized education and resources
- ✓ help to manage symptoms
- ✓ ongoing emotional support
How will I benefit from the CRC CARE Path?
The CRC CARE Path can:
  ✓ shorten wait times
  ✓ reduce stress and worry
  ✓ improve the coordination of your care

Who provides care at the CRC CARE Path?
The team includes:
  • Nurse Navigator – a registered nurse with added knowledge and skills in caring for people with cancer
  • Surgeons specializing in colorectal cancer
  • Medical oncologists
  • Radiation oncologists
  • Radiologists
  • Pathologists
  • Social worker
  • Enterostomal therapist

You and your family are an important part of this team. We will work together to help you understand your diagnosis and treatment options, and guide you along the way.
When will I see the cancer doctor(s)?
When we receive your referral, the Nurse Navigator will call you within a week to ask you some questions and tell you the date and time of your first visit.

To determine your diagnosis, you will have tests such as:

- blood tests
- x-rays
- colonoscopy
- CT scan
- MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging)

Once the results of these tests are received, you will meet with your cancer doctor (Oncologist) and other health professionals.

They will help you:

- understand your diagnosis
- decide on a treatment plan that best meets your needs and wishes

How will the Nurse Navigator help me?
The Nurse Navigator is your guide along the journey from diagnosis to treatment and recovery.

The Nurse Navigator will:

- be your contact person
- coordinate your tests and appointments
- provide you and your family with ongoing support
- help you to manage symptoms and stress
- answer your questions and provide you with information and resources
- work closely with all members of the CRC CARE Path team
Can I bring someone with me to my appointments?
Yes, we encourage you to bring someone with you to:
• hear the team’s suggestions and recommendations
• help you ask questions at your visits
• help you remember information after you go home

How will my family doctor know what’s going on with me?
With your permission, we will send information about your tests and treatments to your family doctor and/or the doctor who referred you to our clinic.

If I need surgery, which hospital will I go to?
Your surgery will be scheduled at either Toronto Western Hospital or Toronto General Hospital. Both hospitals are part of the University Health Network.

If I have surgery, what happens afterwards?
You may need to stay in hospital for a few days after surgery.

The team will talk to you and your family about the next steps in your treatment plan and follow up care. Some patients need to return to the hospital for further treatment such as chemotherapy or radiation.

How do I contact the CRC CARE Path?
① Phone: 1 844 277 2743 (1 844 CR RAPID)
② Fax: 416 603 5102