



# HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

Dr. Craig Earle, Program Director

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



- Draws on an active network of researchers from across the province;
- Seeks collaborative opportunities for oncology projects spanning the cancer control continuum;
- Major collaborations include:
  - Cancer Care Ontario (CCO);
  - Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES);
  - Several Ontario universities and research institutes;
- Through evidence-based studies, can evaluate current healthcare practices;
- Governance structure features:
  - Program Management Committee (projects and portfolio);
  - Scientific Advisory Board (portfolio and strategy);
- Access to rich administrative data sources;
- Inform future policies and disseminate findings to appropriate stakeholders.

## MISSION

The Health Services Research Program's mission is to provide the knowledge needed to optimize the delivery of cancer services today and to ensure appropriate dissemination of health service innovations and well-evaluated technologies.

## PROGRAM ADVANTAGES

### CAPABILITIES

- Economic analysis, disease modeling, technology assessment and evaluation, practice pattern description, outcome evaluation, pragmatic randomized controlled trials, program evaluation, patient reported outcomes, knowledge translation and data de-identification and release (Ontario academic use only).

### SELECTED PROJECTS

- Developed evidence to assist the rollout of Ontario's ColonCancerCheck screening program. ColonCancerCheck was launched to the public in 2008 as the first population-based, organized colorectal screening program of its kind in Canada. The goals of ColonCancerCheck are to reduce deaths from colorectal cancer and to support health care providers in providing the best possible colorectal cancer screening for their patients. The Health Services Research Program demonstrated that targeted mailed invitations led to a 15 per cent increase in colorectal cancer screening;
- Evaluated the effects of a Cancer Care Ontario policy to regionalize thoracic cancer surgical services in high volume centres. The policy had positive effects on some outcomes such as decreasing length of hospital stay and processes of care such as more appropriate use of surgery, which can inform future policy decisions;
- In a randomized trial, demonstrated an over 30 per cent improvement in screening and prevention behaviours in primary care practices through dedicated prevention visits using existing staff in the practices.

## Contact

For more information about the Health Services Research Program please contact:  
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