

MAR 2024

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Thank you for reaching out with your concerns about breast cancer screening in Manitoba.

BreastCheck, Manitoba's breast cancer screening program, recommends that most average-risk women between the ages of 50 to 74 have a screening mammogram every two years. Women who have a personal history or family history that puts them at increased risk of cancer can be assessed at a diagnostic imaging site.

These recommendations are aligned with guidelines published by the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care (CTFPHC). In recent years, there has been increasing interest from the public and public organizations to lower the screening start age to 40 years. As you noted, a number of provinces have or plan to lower their breast screening start age to 40 or 45 years.

Manitoba is awaiting the update from the CTFPHC to guide its next steps; these guidelines, based on a careful assessment of evidence, were last published in 2018. They are currently under review, with a draft update expected next spring.

Meanwhile, CancerCare Manitoba works closely with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer and screening programs across the country to review evidence and discuss best practices, so we will be knowledgeable about the options when the CTFPHC guidelines are released. At that time, CancerCare Manitoba will work with the provincial government to address the needs of Manitobans within our local context.

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