



**PEDIATRIC AND YOUNG ADULT
FERTILITY PRESERVATION IN
ATLANTIC CANADA
PROJECT**

Health PEI



Presentation Objectives

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2. Project Deliverables
3. Benefit to HPEI
4. Guideline Principles & Development
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Project Background

- Funder: Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC)
- Project Lead: Atlantic Provinces Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Network (APPHON)
- Multi-Provincial: pediatric and young adult
- Project-Level Outcomes:
 - Patients: Increased awareness of potential impacts of treatment on fertility and improved access to timely fertility information, fertility-related supports.
 - Health Care Providers: Increased awareness and supports (e.g., evidence-informed best practice guideline) to help facilitate fertility conversations. Provide patients with timely information and referral for fertility consultation, fertility-related supports, and fertility preservation (if desired).
 - Inclusion and Equity: Fertility pathways and education resources are created with an equity lens of local relevance to meet the needs of equity-denied, First Nations, Inuit and Métis and out of province patients. The value of reciprocity guides all engagement work with First Nations, Inuit and Métis organizations or patients.

* Has be developed with patient and family partners through every step!*

Project Deliverables

1. Working Groups and Steering Committee ✓
2. Develop and Adapt Fertility Preservation Guideline ✓
3. Equitable and Sustainable Fertility Referral Pathway ✓
4. Education/Information/Awareness Plan ✓
5. Validated Oncofertility Screening Prompt ✓
6. Performance Measurement Planning and Knowledge Sharing
7. Sustainability Plan



HOW WILL THIS PROJECT BENEFIT US IN PEI?

- **Resource Accessibility** (for patients and providers!)
 - **Patients:** resources (e.g., education handouts) re: fertility preservation education, funding, etc.
 - **Providers:** oncofertility guidelines, clinical care pathways, embedded screening prompt.
 - Developing sustainable key quality indicators (KQIs) and patient reported outcomes (PROs) to ensure providers and patients are supported.
 - Will assist our facilities in meeting Accreditation Canada standards.



GUIDING PRINCIPALS OF THE GUIDELINE

All patients undergoing cancer-directed therapy or cancer-like therapy have a right to:

- Know the risks of potential fertility impairment from their therapy.
- Knowledge and choice regarding fertility preservation options, if available and clinically appropriate.
- Understand the feasibility and potential outcome of the different fertility preservation options.
- Discuss this information prior to exposure to therapy.



GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT

- Began as an update of the IWK oncofertility evidence-based guideline(2020).
- Developed using a literature review of new evidence/research since the IWK guidelines were published.
 - For example, some experimental treatments have been revised to standard of care(ovarian tissue cryopreservation).
- Diverged into separate pediatric and adult guidelines to ensure differences are appreciated.
- Contains best practice recommendations, regardless of the services currently available in each province.

GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT

- Presentations to providers and distribution for feedback in December 2024
- Updates incorporated 2025
- Re-Distribution along with usability survey to professionals in Atlantic Canada July/August 2025
- Guideline is finalized and is posted on the APPHON website.
 - <https://www.apphon-rohppa.com/en/oncofertility/guidelines>





Implementation

- **Introduction and Provision of Finalized Education Materials**
 - At diagnosis educational materials AMAB and AFAB (Adult and Pediatric & a 1- page Adolescent)
 - Post treatment educational materials AFAB and AMAB (Adult and Pediatric)
 - Funding brochure



Implementation

- Embed the guidelines, patient validated prompt, and pathways into practice and documentation systems.
 - Use it as a tool to help you and your patients.
 - Included in the [guideline](#) are a clinical care pathways to assist providers
 - Information and Education sessions



Important Links

- Oncofertility guideline <https://www.apphon-rohppa.com/en/oncofertility/guidelines>
- Education resources
 - At Diagnosis <https://www.apphon-rohppa.com/en/oncofertility/at-diagnosis>
 - Post Treatment <https://www.apphon-rohppa.com/en/oncofertility/post-treatment>
 - Funding <https://www.apphon-rohppa.com/en/oncofertility/funding>



Atlantic Canada Fertility Clinics

Conceptia (NB) only does Embryo freezing not Egg freezing so females can go to Atlantic Fertility (Halifax) for egg freezing

<https://www.conceptia.ca/referring-physicians>

<https://atlanticfertility.ca/referral>

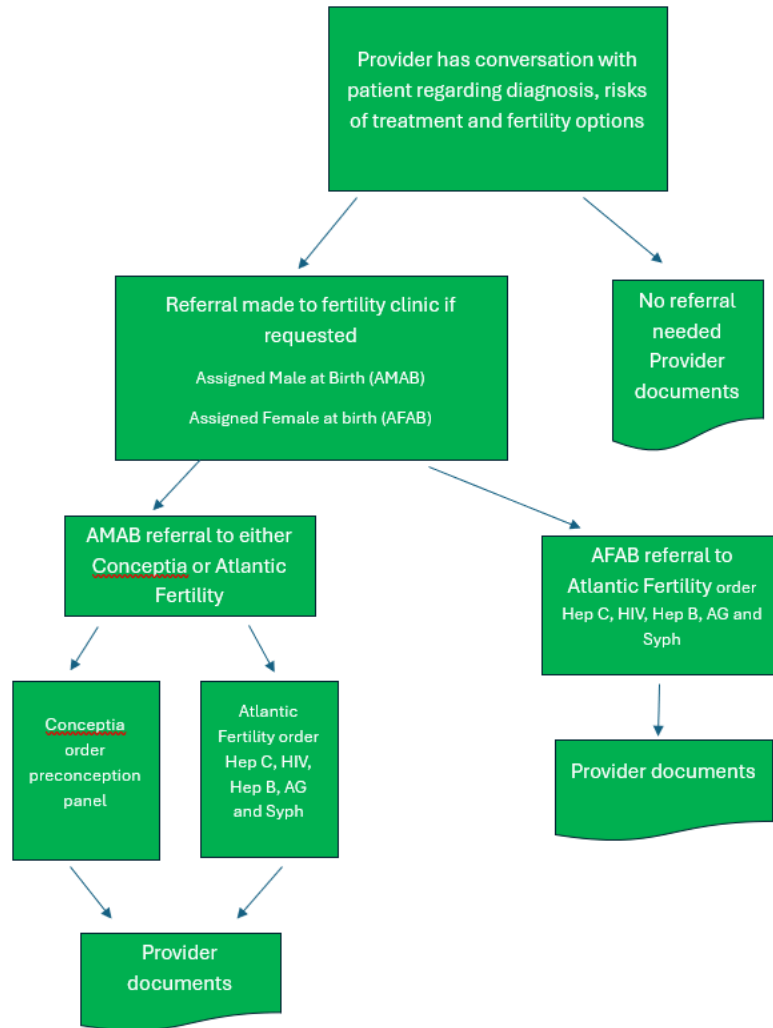
Males can go to either fertility clinic for sperm freezing.

Conceptia blood work required:

For males, it would be the “Preconception Panel”(partner) so that they can freeze the sperm.

Atlantic Fertility blood work required for males and females:

ID screens (Hep C, HIV, Hep B, AG and Syph) and a referral. Atlantic Fertility **does not** have a printable referral form; they have the template to do the online referral.



Provider Flow

Patient & Family Advisor Validated Prompt

Some cancer treatments could impact fertility or reproductive health and the ability to have biological children now and in the future.



Evaluation

- **KQIs** to determine success and satisfaction from the guidelines, prompt and resources.
 - Patients who were screened using the prompt on the SFD
 - Number of patients who answered yes
 - Number of patients who answered no
 - Number of patients screened
 - Number of new cancer pts referred to a cancer centre
 - Patients who requested a fertility referral
 - Number of patients referred to a fertility clinic for a consult
 - Reasons for not requesting a referral

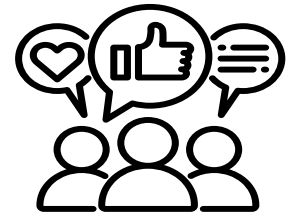


Evaluation



- **Additional chart audits** to measure success of implementation.
- **Sustainability Plan**
 - **APPHON** responsible to review and update resources
 - **Guideline**
 - **Educational materials**
- **Provincial Cancer Organization/ PEICTC**
 - **Ongoing monitoring** to ensure **Oncofertility** processes are embedded in practice.

Interest Holder Engagement



- **Educate providers and interested parties on the Oncofertility Project**
 - Other specialty providers (e.g. Gyne/Obs/ Urology/SHORS)
 - Health PEI Navigators
 - Primary Care/Medical Homes
 - Medical Affairs Office Newsletter –January 2026
 - Community Engagement
 - Canadian Cancer Society

Food for Thought

“....only half of patients discussed fertility with their medical team, and only 13 per cent went through any type of fertility preserving procedure..”

Young Adult Cancer Canada Prime Study
2020



Thank you!

Questions?



Carol Digout, Executive Director APPHON

Carol.digout@iwk.nshealth.ca

Marla Delaney, Program Development Lead

mdelaney@ihis.org



CONTACT