

ACTION FOR HEALTH

# KEY MESSAGES

September 2025



[ActionForHealth.NovaScotia.ca](https://ActionForHealth.NovaScotia.ca)

# Access and Flow



**Digby General Hospital's Medical Unit** shares their successes and lessons learned in [Episode 11 of the SAFER-f Stories podcast](#). Staff are encouraged to follow the [YouTube channel](#) and explore [SAFER-f resources](#).



Nova Scotia Health has launched a new **Home First resource site**, one for [healthcare providers](#) and another for [patients and the public](#). Tools on this site help patients transition smoothly from hospital to home.

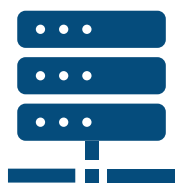


**Health Beyond Hospital** helps patients recover at home by connecting health, social, and mental health supports. A successful prototype at Aberdeen Hospital in July enrolled 85 patients in the intake process to be assigned a discharge pathway, with 57 safely discharged to the place they call home. The pilot phase will begin next month. [Learn more](#).

# C3: Care Coordination Centre



The Care Coordination Centre is improving patient flow across the province. A new **Provincial Transfer Hub** has launched in partnership with EHS to coordinate inter-zone transfers, in collaboration with zones. Teams now have a better view in the C3 tiles of all patients awaiting return to their home zone.

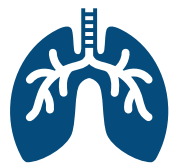


Enhancements to the **Patient Manager and Intake Manager tiles** now include near real-time EHS transfer information. The Patient Manager tile is also being expanded to 22 additional community hospitals and health centres, with training underway.

# Cancer Care



Today, 97% of patients who need chemotherapy or immunotherapy receive **treatment closer to home**. This was made possible because of a major investment in community cancer care that led to hiring more cancer care professionals, further engaging patients and communities, and creating a care model where local teams work closely with cancer centres. This means patients spend less time away from work and family, face lower travel costs, and experience shorter wait times for advanced care. It also strengthens the availability of community-based care and improves access.



The **Lung Screening Program** began a soft launch in July in the Northern and Western zones. This phased approach allows teams to test new processes, redirect referrals from primary care providers to the new program, and prepare for a full rollout in early 2026.



To better support underserved communities to access the Lung Screening Program, **community liaisons** have been hired by the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia and the Health Association of African Nova Scotians. These liaisons are trusted members of their communities and are helping raise awareness, build trust, and co-create culturally relevant materials. Discussions are also underway with Tajikeyimik to determine the best approach for engaging Mi'kmaw communities.



A new **remote support team** is being developed to help cancer patients manage symptoms outside regular clinic hours. Starting in 2026, oncology nurses will provide phone support during evenings, weekends, and holidays to ensure timely care and peace of mind.

# eServices



More than **260,000 eReferrals** have been sent to date, including:

- 142,000 surgical referrals,
- 118,000 diagnostic imaging referrals, and
- 1,500 gastroenterology referrals (since May 2025).



A **patient survey** (Oct. 2024 to Sept. 2025) about eReferrals shows that 86% feel confident their referral is being managed, 98% have confirmed appointments via email, and 87% say eReferrals improve their care experience.



Planning is underway to **expand eReferral** to CT, interventional radiology, fluoroscopy, and nuclear medicine. This is part of the broader Medical Image Requisition Management initiative within OPOR.

Subscribe to the [eServices bulletin](#). For more information, visit [www.referralsns.ca](http://www.referralsns.ca).



# Frailty and Elder Care



Since October 2023, the **Early Mobility Program** has helped nearly 12,000 patients. Most patients are supported to move twice a day, which helps prevent functional decline and enables safe discharge home. So far, 94% of patients have returned to the place they call home.

## Health System Workforce: Continuing Care



The Dept. of Seniors and Long-term Care is testing a new **Transition to Practice program** to support internationally educated nurses to fill existing LPN vacancies in continuing care. Work is also underway to support nurses in expanding their scope of practice, including IV therapy and RN prescribing, and to optimize the CCA role.



Teams have developed **workforce planning tools** to ensure we have the right mix of health professionals in Nova Scotia to meet current and future needs.

# One Person One Record



**Classroom training has started for the first wave of OPOR**, which launches on December 6 at IWK Health.

Training is for:

- IWK Health providers, clinicians, and employees,
- Nova Scotia Health providers who have privileges at IWK Health, and
- Nova Scotia Health Diagnostic Imaging teams, as the **Novari** Medical Imaging Requisition Management solution is also being provincially implemented at this time.



Nova Scotia Health staff are encouraged to complete the second [\*\*OPOR-CIS Change Readiness Survey\*\*](#), available until October 7.



The [\*\*OPOR Hub\*\*](#) is the main source of information about implementation. See the “Impacted Areas” page to find information specific to your work.



# Primary Health Care



As of September 1, 84,069 Nova Scotians are on the **Need a Family Practice Registry**, representing 7.9% of the population. This is a decrease of 3,810 from the previous month. People are added or removed from the registry each month based on changes in their care status.



The [Highland Health Home and Learning Centre](#) in New Glasgow is now open, offering team-based care to thousands of patients in Pictou County. It also includes a learning hub and simulation space for training physicians, nurses, and learners. This site represents a major investment in both patient care and workforce development.



The **Dr. Maria Angwin Memorial Clinic** is now fully open, providing collaborative, community-based care to residents of Dartmouth North. Patients are supported by a team of providers working together to deliver high-quality care in a welcoming environment. [Learn more.](#)



A **new Health Home is being built in Antigonish** and is expected to open in early 2026. It is being developed in partnership with local physicians, patients, and community partners to improve access to primary care. [See updates.](#)



# Public Health



Two **new vaccines** are now publicly funded for seniors: Shingles (65+) and RSV (75+). RSV protection is also available for infants under eight months of age.



The **Nurse-Family Partnership program** is now available in all zones to support new parents who face overlapping social and health challenges. [Learn more.](#)



The **Fluoride Varnish program** reached pre-primary and elementary-aged children in 167 schools, with 40,000 first and second applications being provided. [Learn more.](#)



A **Grade 12 Immunization Pilot** is helping students access publicly funded childhood vaccines before leaving the school system.



Two online **immunization awareness campaigns** were run in spring 2025. The general immunization campaign focused on measles, pertussis and polio, while a second campaign for youth promoted the HPV vaccine. Also available: [Vaccine toolkit for providers.](#)



The **Public Health Mobile Unit** now tests for seven communicable diseases: COVID-19, Influenza, RSV, measles, mumps, Avian Influenza, invasive Group A streptococcal. [Learn more.](#)