

In response to your inquiry about Physics Quality Control Services,

We are the Directors of Mammographic Physics Inc. and we have worked with OBSP/CCO for the past 25 years delivering physics QC services to the OBSP sites including yours. Like you, we are concerned about the changes that CCO just announced and also confused about the future of mammographic QC as there is some key information that they have not yet provided.

Over the past two years, at the request of CCO, we developed a system that would allow the frequency of the on-site physics visits to be reduced to one per year. This was done mainly to reduce costs. To avoid a drop in quality, we developed a mailed HARP testing system which we validated to show that it gave equivalent measurements to those from an in-person visit, while also evaluating important aspects of image quality which is lacking in HARP testing. HARP testing that produces measurements that are not consistent with the annual testing is of no value in tracking equipment performance. We also developed a remote connection system to improve quality monitoring and to reduce labour required by the site MRT for QC. Unfortunately, in the middle of the implementation of these innovations, CCO decided (again on the basis of costs) to drop the project and to reduce its quality standards. CCO has stated that they will provide a stipend to the sites to cover one onsite physics visit per year plus HARP testing, however, they have not indicated what that level of support would be.

MPI maintains its longstanding commitment to the highest quality mammography. We believe that the program that we have developed is consistent with that goal. We are prepared to continue working with your site, but as per CCO's announcement that they are not currently supporting the previous centralized system, this would have to be through a separate contract. We believe that the centralized system was an excellent model for quality and our goal is to try to continue in a manner that keeps as many of the strengths of this program as possible. If you would like, we can provide you a quote, once there is more information on CCO support to the facilities. If you are interested, we would like to include three key elements in that quote: one onsite visit per year, one mailed HARP test per year (so that results are comparable with those from the onsite visit) and the remote connection. We feel that only performing an annual CAR visit will not ensure that the image quality is up to the standards that the women of Ontario have come to expect, and deserve.

If your site is already participating in the OBSP MammoQC program with e-Health or internet connection, rest assured that we will maintain server operation at our expense until at least mid-summer of this year.

If you could let us know how you would like us to proceed, or if you have any questions, please email us at: contact@mamphys.com.

Best,



Martin Yaffe, Gord Mawdsley
Directors MPI