



Atlantic Canada Oncofertility Educational Resources and Guidelines

This document outlines educational resources and guidelines on Oncofertility for both patients and healthcare providers.

Information for Patients

A cancer diagnosis can be scary, overwhelming, and confusing. One thing you may want to think about is how cancer and treatments can affect your fertility now or in the future. Fertility is the ability to have biological children.

These resources will provide you with information about options for preserving your fertility. Your medical team will speak with you about your diagnosis, treatment, and any risks to fertility. They can also refer you to a fertility specialist to talk about your options.

Your experiences and preferences regarding your sexual and reproductive health are important.

Atlantic Canada Oncofertility

Atlantic Canada Oncofertility is an umbrella term which refers to the oncofertility project led by Atlantic Provinces Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Network (APPHON) and supported by all Atlantic provincial health authorities/cancer agencies. This work could not have been accomplished without the support of our funder, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC), and our patient and family advisors.

At Diagnosis Resources

Cancer, Fertility, and Sexual Health:

- **For Children & Adolescents Assigned Female at Birth**
- **For Children & Adolescents Assigned Male at Birth**
- **For Adults Assigned Female at Birth**
- **For Adults Assigned Male at Birth**

These resources will provide you with information about options for preserving your fertility. Topics include: Why do we need to talk about this; Fertility Risk; Fertility Preservation Options; Treatments That May Affect Fertility; Sexual Health and Cancer; Start the Conversation; Post-Treatment.

Resources: <https://www.apphon-rohppa.com/en/oncofertility/at-diagnosis>

Funding Options

Cancer and Fertility Funding – What are my options on Prince Edward Island?

This resource will provide you with information about fertility clinics, estimated preservation costs, and funding options for preserving your fertility.



Resource: <https://www.apphon-rohppa.com/en/oncofertility/funding>

Post Treatment Resources

Fertility After Cancer Treatment

- **For Individuals Assigned Female at Birth**
- **For Individuals Assigned Male at Birth**

These resources will provide you with information about your fertility options after cancer treatment. Topics include: Why do we need to talk about this; The Reproductive System; How does cancer treatment affect the ovaries; Fertility Follow-Up; Common Questions.

Fertility After Cancer Treatment – For Youth and Adolescents

This resource will provide adolescents with *additional information* about fertility options after cancer treatment.

Topics include: What is Fertility; Feelings About Fertility; Questions About Fertility; The Future of My Fertility.

Resource: <https://www.apphon-rohppa.com/en/oncofertility/post-treatment>

Links – Sexual Health and Cancer

Please see the links of reputable online sources: <https://www.apphon-rohppa.com/en/oncofertility/links>

Information for Health Care Providers

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Clinicians are urged to discuss fertility preservation with all patients/family members (as appropriate) regardless of the treatment risk. Our educational materials were developed to respond to the questions from our patients/family advisors and funding brochures have been developed for all Atlantic provinces.

Educational Resources

- At Diagnosis Resources: <https://www.apphon-rohppa.com/en/oncofertility/at-diagnosis>
- Post Treatment Resources: <https://www.apphon-rohppa.com/en/oncofertility/post-treatment>
- Funding Options: <https://www.apphon-rohppa.com/en/oncofertility/funding>

Links

- Links – Sexual Health & Cancer: <https://www.apphon-rohppa.com/en/oncofertility/links>
- Links – For Providers: <https://www.apphon-rohppa.com/en/oncofertility/linksHCP>

Guidelines

The following guidelines provide recommendations based on best practices:

- **A Guideline for Fertility Planning Regarding Pre- and Post-Exposure to Cancer-Directed or Cancer-Like Therapy for Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Patients**

These guidelines are based on the current evidence of the impact of surgery, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy on fertility in children treated with cancer-directed and cancer-like therapies. These guidelines are designed to provide physicians and nursing staff, in the division of hematology/oncology, with a document to provide clear and consistent information, and to facilitate access to further consultation and fertility preservation options. The document also addresses management of gonadotoxicity after completion of treatment. This document addresses:

1. The risks of fertility impairment for patients who are to receive or have received cancer-directed therapy or cancer-like therapy;
2. Available fertility preservation measures for pediatric patients that are to receive or have received cancer-directed or cancer-like therapy;
3. Counselling pediatric cancer survivors of their infertility risks and available resources;
4. Standards for assessing pubertal and gonadal function in patients who have received cancer-directed and cancer-like therapy.

- **A Guideline for Fertility Planning Regarding Pre- and Post-Exposure to Cancer-Directed or Cancer-Like Therapy for Adult Hematology/Oncology Patients**

Canadian data indicates that 4250 reproductive-age individuals Assigned Female at Birth (AFAB) (20-39 years old) and 2500 individuals Assigned Male at Birth (AMAB) (20-39 years old) are newly diagnosed with cancer in Canada each year, yet referrals to fertility specialists/clinics and fertility preservation is much lower. This is in part due to lack of knowledge and inefficiency in the current Canadian oncofertility system. Health care providers do not always have the knowledge or consistently discuss infertility risks or deliver fertility preservation information to hematology/oncology patients at risk prior to therapy that may impact fertility nor are these services always accessible. Patients and survivors have indicated that they would like to be informed at the time of diagnosis, regardless of the actual risk of fertility impairment, and despite other factors, such as cost, experimental nature of interventions, and the likelihood of surviving. These cancer care guidelines aim to facilitate that discussion and process.

Guidelines: <https://www.apphon-rohppa.com/en/oncofertility/guidelines>

APPHON/ROHPPA supportive care guidelines have been developed by appropriate Atlantic Provinces health professional specialists (physicians, pharmacists, nurses and other health professionals) using evidence-based or best practice references. Format and content of the guidelines will change as they are reviewed and revised on a periodic basis. Care has been taken to ensure accuracy of the information. However, any physician or health professional using these guidelines will be responsible for verifying doses and administering medications and care according to their own institutional formularies and policies and acceptable standards of care.