

# Alberta Screening and Prevention Literature Review

2014

## 1. Screening and prevention outreach

### Question

What are the best practices in primary care for:

- Opportunistic screening and prevention processes
- Outreach screening and prevention processes

### Summary of findings

- Best strategies differ, depending on screening maneuver.
- Overall evidence seems to favour client reminders combined with small media (flyers etc.) for patient outreach
- For physician outreach, reminders work, although the evidence is not solid for electronic reminders. Assessment and feedback are also effective, but incentives such as CME credits are not proven at this point
- Nothing found for opportunistic screening practices, however, physician reminders can work for opportunistic screening practices
- Most evidence is for cancer screening. Very little found for cardiovascular screening/prevention outreach. Perhaps because there is no demand to increase screening for these conditions

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## 2. EMR use in screening & prevention

### Question

What are the best practices for EMR utilization to support increased screening and prevention outreach and opportunistic processes?

### Summary of findings

EMRs have been effectively used in various ways for screening and prevention. There is not enough literature to generalize best practices, but we can learn from the following successful examples. These include:

- Using the EMR to generate lists and reminders of patients that need to be contacted for screening at a certain point in time
  - Using the EMR to identify those at risk for a condition and using that information to invite these people for targeted screening.
  - Using the EMR for screening follow-up.
- 961 results.

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