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## Ten health stories that mattered this week

- Canadians face [patchwork access to screening](#) for medical conditions depending on where they live, as authorities offer conflicting recommendations about who, when and what to screen for, and the responsibility for decision-making remains unclear, reports the Health Council of Canada.
- A retired [marriage counselor is offering nose jobs](#) and “vaginal beautifications” at her laser clinic in Ottawa, Ont. — despite protests from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. The woman, who doesn’t claim to be a doctor, says she obtains drugs for local anesthesia from an unnamed physician who is not present when she performs the procedures.
- A study of nearly 90 000 Canadian women shows that [mammography doesn’t reduce breast cancer deaths](#) and offers no survival advantage over physical breast exams for middle-aged women. Researchers compared mammography versus no mammography in women aged 40–59 and found that the number of deaths was virtually the same for both groups, while 22% of the mammography-detected tumors were “over-diagnosed.”
- This year’s [flu shot offered good protection](#) to those who received it, according to a Canadian study. The vaccine appeared to be about 71% effective against all flu strains, and 74% effective against H1N1.
- A British Columbia hospital has [delivered the baby of a brain-dead woman](#), whose body was kept on life-support in a bid to save the child’s life. Life support was withdrawn after the caesarian section.
- Nova Scotia is considering a [ban on using e-cigarettes in public places](#), citing concerns that smokers are using them to get around smoking bans in restaurants, shopping malls and other public areas.

- Alberta Health Services is [withholding wait times data](#) in order to save face, Alberta Liberal leader Dr. Raj Sherman charged at a press conference. He unveiled a quarterly report obtained through an Access-to-information request that shows a slight decrease in patients cleared from emergency rooms within eight hours, down 1% from last year to 47% — a measure that’s missing from public reports.
- Teen girls with a major mental health disorder are [three times more likely to get pregnant](#) than those without a mental illness, an Ontario study reveals. Although the birth rates for both groups have dropped over time, the gap between them appears to be widening. Among girls with a major mental illness, live births decreased only 14% during the 10-year study, compared to 22% among those unaffected by psychiatric illness.
- A diet based on [food harvested or hunted locally](#) in Nunavut could be the answer to food insecurity faced by 70% of all households in the territory, reported Action Canada. Local food consumption can be increased by improving hunting capacity, food processing and distribution, the group urged.
- The Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada predicts the federal government will [cut \\$2.6 billion and 5064 jobs](#) from ten science-based federal departments between 2013 and 2016. In a report, the union representing scientists and professional public employees catalogued cuts already made to science programs and budgets, as well as top scientists axed from the federal payroll.

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