



**Ontario Health**  
Cancer Care Ontario



# PET Capital Investment Strategy

July, 2023

# Executive Summary

Positron Emission Tomography (PET) is a type of imaging that is part of the continuum of care for detecting and evaluating many cancers, as well as some cardiac and neurological disorders. PET machines provide scans that are used to diagnose these diseases, as well as to make crucial decisions about their clinical management.

Ontario Health regularly updates its PET Capital Investment Strategy to ensure future capital investments for PET machines are appropriately timed and strategically placed to sustain and improve equitable access to high-quality PET scans for all Ontarians. The strategy uses a data-driven approach, with advice and input from administrators, local experts in the field, patient and family advisors, and facilities that have been recipients of PET machines as part of Ontario's PET Capital Investment Program.

Much progress has been made since the first iteration of the strategy was launched in 2019, but challenges to PET access remain, particularly for Ontarians living in regions served by a Regional Cancer Program (RCP) without a PET program. New PET machines are also needed to replace machines at the end of their life cycles, and to address the increasing need for PET scans resulting from new uses for the technology and requirements for additional regional capacity.

The 2023 PET Capital Investment Strategy confirms the need to continue the provincial PET Capital Investment Program and recommends the purchase of nine machines over the next five years, or roughly two machines per year.

Between 2023/24 and 2027/28, the recommended purchases will include:

- 4 new PET programs to improve geographic access to clinical PET machines in Ontario
- 2 additional PET machines in regions with existing PET programs to close the gap with PET service need
- 3 PET machines to replace machines at the end of their recommended life cycles