



Ontario Health
Cancer Care Ontario



Radiation Treatment Capital Investment Strategy

2018

Executive Summary

Radiation treatment is an essential element of curative treatment for many types of localized cancers and is also effective in alleviating the symptoms of many patients with locally advanced or metastatic disease. To ensure future capital investments for radiation treatment are appropriately timed and strategically placed, Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) has – with its provincial partners – updated its Radiation Treatment Capital Investment Strategy.

This strategy recommends the placement of additional radiation treatment equipment and the development of new or expanded facilities and emerging technologies to keep pace with the growing need for radiation treatment by 2028. This ensures all who would benefit from radiation treatment have access to up-to-date, reliable and safe equipment available to them in their region.

These recommendations guide funding requests in CCO’s Annual Business Plan and other provincial capital funding requests by hospitals for radiation treatment services.

Recommendations

1. Mitigate the immediate capacity challenges by:
 - a. Supporting the development of regional partnerships between facilities to mitigate immediate capacity challenges (e.g., partnerships for Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, Trillium Health Partners and Windsor Regional Hospital)
 - b. Planning for the construction of a new facility in Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) 5/6
2. As outlined in the 2012 strategy, continue actions towards 12-hour treatment days in large facilities and 11-hour treatment days for facilities operating fewer than six treatment machines by:
 - a. Reviewing Trillium Health Partners’ evaluation of their experience with extended treatment days to better understand the impact and considerations required to support extended treatment days in other cancer centres
3. Leverage CCO’s Annual Business Plan to highlight the following funding priorities:
 - a. Equip empty pre-constructed bunkers in regions requiring new machines (e.g., London Health Sciences Centre, Grand River Hospital, Southlake Regional Health Centre, Kingston General Hospital, The Ottawa Hospital, Lakeridge Health Corporation and Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre)
 - b. Plan for the construction of new bunkers or facilities in regions with no empty pre-constructed bunkers to add radiation treatment capacity
4. Continue to monitor the need for changes in radiation replacement grant allocation as technology evolves (e.g., proton therapy, adaptive treatment planning, MR simulators, and brachytherapy) and

secure additional funding in the radiation treatment replacement grant, as required:

- a. Continue to leverage centralized planning and procurement processes to maximize use of the available replacement grant funds.