

Demonstration Project Final Report: Summary

The CSRT Demonstration Project is an important initiative that reflects Cancer Care Ontario's commitment to developing innovative ways to deliver care through new roles for health professionals and enhanced collaboration between disciplines, as set out in the Cancer Plan 2008-2011. The report provides the evaluation results for all phases of the CSRT Demonstration Project, including data collected up to January 31st, 2010. As the outcome data shows, the project has been successful in supporting key Ministry priorities. The report also presents recommendations for province-wide implementation of the CSRT role.

Data from the Project shows a number of benefits can be realized through implementation of the CSRT role, and confirms that the roles are both viable and highly supported by stakeholders. Once again, the results confirm, as per findings from earlier phases that CSRTs can safely and effectively provide some services that are traditionally performed by radiation oncologists, freeing the oncologists to provide other more complex services. During the period of study, CSRTs were able to achieve significant reductions in patient wait times, improve access to services, and develop and implement service and process improvements, including improving service for previously underserved populations. With the Expansion Phase (Phase II, August 2008 – March 31st, 2010), it was shown that the CSRT scope of practice is flexible and therefore transferable to a variety of settings.

Innovative roles, such as the CSRT, provide an excellent opportunity to think creatively about the roles of health professionals, within the context of a flexible, responsive multi-disciplinary team environment. Experience demonstrates that these roles can improve the quality, efficiency and timeliness of patient care, address health human resource shortages, increase patient and provider satisfaction, and bring much-needed flexibility to the cancer care system.