

## Access to Radiation Therapy

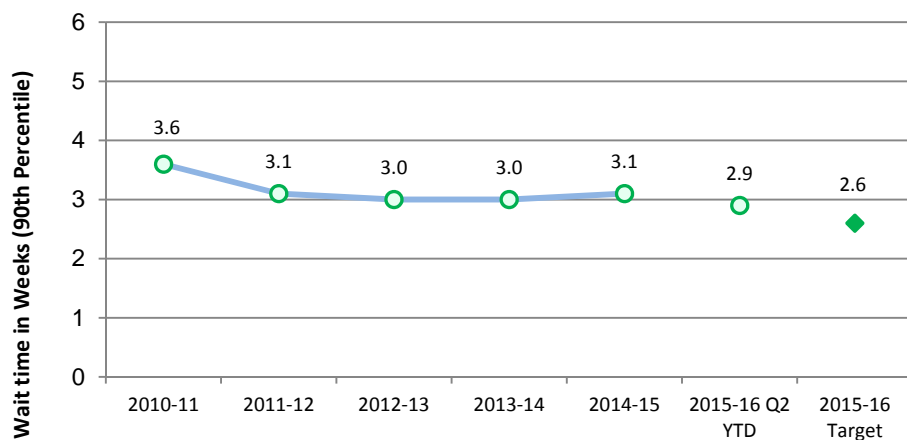
### Measure Definition

Ninety per cent of patients wait for radiation therapy this length of time or less (measured from when they are ready to treat). This measure is the time from the date the patient was physically ready to commence treatment, to the date that the patient received his/her first radiation therapy.

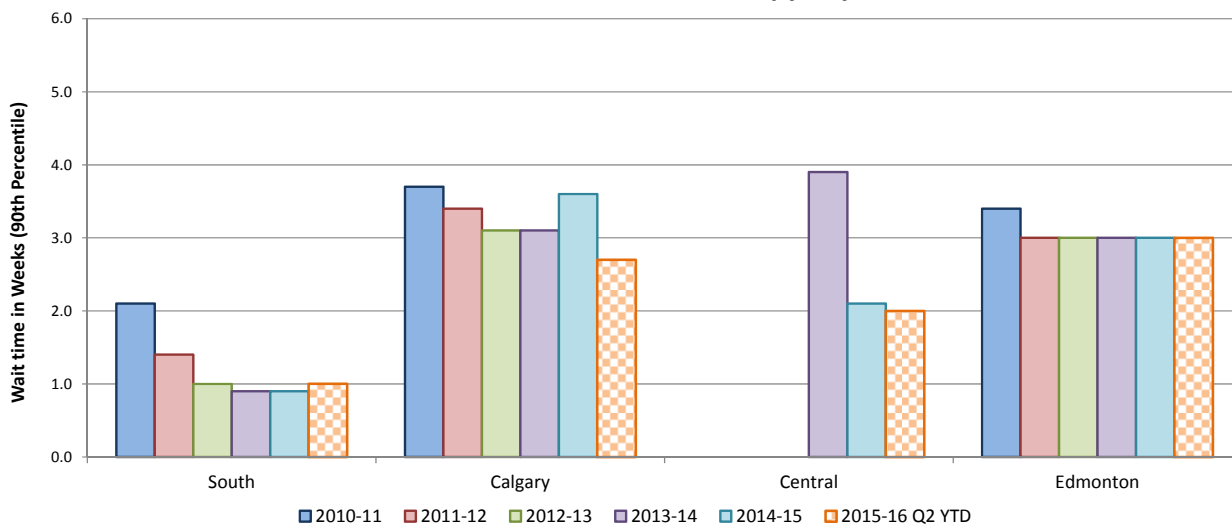
### Understanding this Measure

Timely access to radiation therapy for cancer diagnosis can impact treatment effectiveness and outcomes. Currently, this data is reported on patients who receive radiation therapy at the Cross Cancer Institute in Edmonton, the Tom Baker Cancer Centre in Calgary, and the Jack Ady Cancer Centre in Lethbridge. Data from 2013-14 will include the new Central Alberta Cancer Centre. The data applies only to patients receiving external beam radiation therapy.

Access to Radiation Therapy - Annual



Access to Radiation Therapy - By Zone



Note: Central Zone Cancer Center opened in November 2013. Grande Prairie Cancer Centre is planned to open in the North Zone in 2019.

## Access to Radiation Therapy – Actions

### Provincial/ Strategic Clinical Network (SCN)

- Engaged AHS Research and Analytics portfolio to facilitate the Radiation Therapy activity costing project to establish benchmark for radiotherapy activity costing at the four Radiation Therapy centres in Alberta.
- Request for Proposal submitted to support and seek funding for the 10 year radiotherapy replacement plan, including completion of an interprovincial collaborative for the purchase of radiation treatment units (Linacs) that optimizes buying power and strengthens related service and support from equipment vendors.
- Work continues to expedite access to lung cancer treatment through the Alberta Thoracic Oncology Program (ATOP) by expanding the radiology notification program and proactively monitoring performance in collaboration with the zones. The number of patients referred to the ATOP clinic continues to grow, and surgical wait times have improved:
  - Q1 2015-16 - 721 referrals to ATOP (Q1 FY 14-15 - 611 patients).
  - Surgical wait times from Decision to Treat until Surgery Q1 2015-16 was 52 days compared to last year Q2 FY14-15 prior to impact of new surgical resources it was 60 days.
- Work continues in business process changes to improve Tom Baker Cancer Centre Ambulatory Clinic processes to decrease patient wait times and maximize clinic staff and space by improving the process for scheduling and cancelling clinics and standardizing clinic practices.

### IN SUMMARY

Q2 year-to-date, provincial and three zone results improved slightly since the same period as last year.

AHS CancerControl is responsible for treating patients with cancer. This provincial network of cancer professionals and facilities provide most cancer treatment except for surgery.

If you are diagnosed with cancer, your family physician or surgeon may refer you to a cancer facility to discuss further treatment options. If you are referred, you will meet with a doctor specially trained to treat cancer. The two most common types of treatment given in the cancer facilities are chemotherapy and radiation therapy.

Radiation therapy is available at the Cross Cancer Institute in Edmonton; Tom Baker Cancer Centre in Calgary; Jack Ady Cancer Centre in Lethbridge and Central Alberta Cancer Centre in Red Deer.

## Access to Radiation Therapy – Zone and Site Details

*Ninety per cent of patients wait for radiation therapy this length of time or less (measured from when they are ready to treat). This measure is the time from the date the patient was physically ready to commence treatment, to the date that the patient received his/her first radiation therapy.*

Access to Radiation Therapy (weeks)	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Q2 YTD		Trend *	2015-16 Target
				2014-15 Last Year	2015-16 Current		
<b>Provincial</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>↑</b>	<b>2.6</b>
South Zone (JackAly Cancer Centre)	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.6	1.0	↓	1.0
Calgary Zone (Tom Baker Cancer Centre)	3.1	3.1	3.6	3.7	2.7	↑	2.7
Central Zone (Central Alberta Cancer Centre)	N/A	3.9	2.1	2.3	2.0	↑	N/A
Edmonton Zone (Cross Cancer Institute)	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	↑	2.6

**N/A:** No results available. Central Alberta Cancer Centre opened November 2013. Grande Prairie Cancer Centre is planned to open in the North Zone in 2019.

**\*Trend:** ↑ Improvement → Stability ↓ Area requires additional focus

Number of patients who started radiation therapy	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Q2 YTD	
				2014-15 Last Year	2015-16 Current
<b>Provincial</b>	<b>7,093</b>	<b>7,019</b>	<b>7,438</b>	<b>3,732</b>	<b>3,898</b>
South Zone	414	431	415	178	194
Calgary Zone	2,916	2,639	2,911	1,460	1,672
Central Zone	N/A	93	425	218	231
Edmonton Zone	3,763	3,804	3,687	1,876	1,801

**N/A:** No results available. Central Alberta Cancer Centre opened November 2013. Grande Prairie Cancer Centre is planned to open in the North Zone in 2019.