

Access to Radiation Therapy

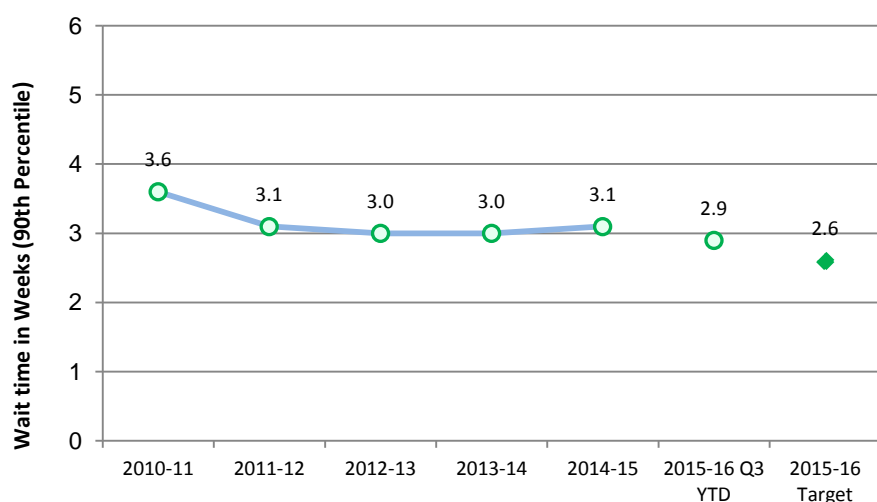
Measure Definition

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, the Jack Ady Cancer Centre in Lethbridge and the new Central Alberta Cancer Centre in Red Deer. The data applies only to patients receiving external beam radiation therapy.

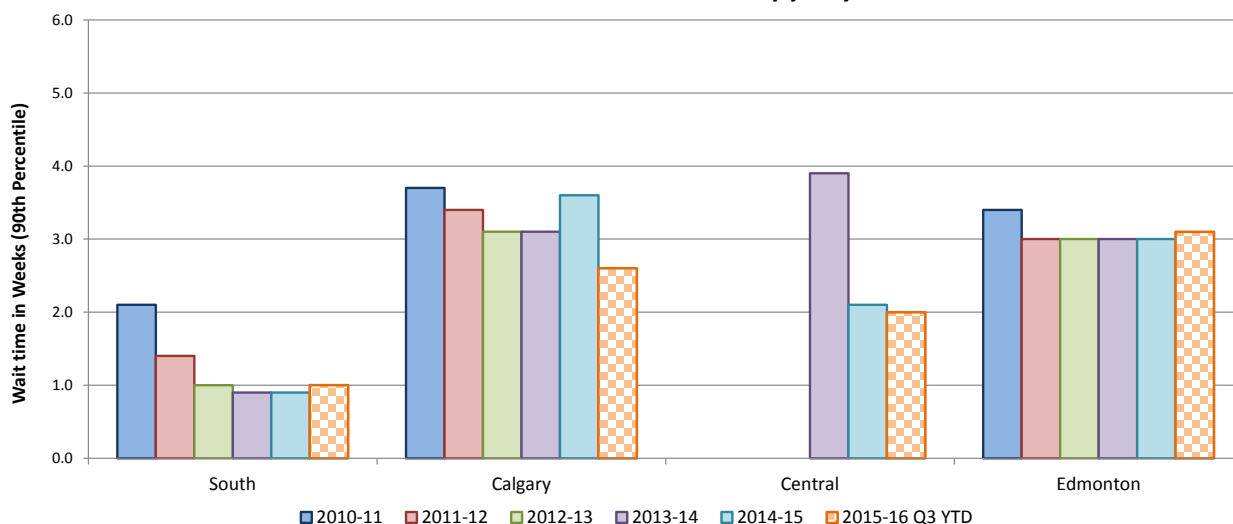
Access to Radiation Therapy - Annual



How Do We Compare?

Alberta ranks 6th best nationally among ten provinces. However, 95% of patients in Alberta receive treatment within the 4-week benchmark.

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)

- Work continues to establish benchmark for radiotherapy activity costing at the four Radiation Therapy centres in Alberta.
- 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:
 - Q2 2015-16 was 688 referrals to ATOP (Q2 FY 2014-15 was 585 patients).
 - Q2 2015-16 was 55.75 days surgical wait times from Decision to Treat until Surgery (Q2 2014-15 was 61.25 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. An evaluation is currently underway.
- Provincially, radiation wait times have improved over the last 12 months. For January 2016, the wait time for ready to treat to treatment for radiotherapy was 18 days and met the provincial target (2.6 weeks or 18 days).
- The regional cancer centers continuously meet the wait time target. In January 2016, Jack Ady Cancer Centre was six days and Central Alberta Cancer Centre was 15 days.
- The wait time target was achieved for most of the referral tumor groups over the last 12 months. Breast, GI-colon/rectum, Head and Neck and Central Nervous System did not meet the target but had between 81% and 84% of patients treated within the target. Lung, Genito-urinary Prostate and Musculoskeletal were very close to meeting the target with 89% of patients treated within the target.

IN SUMMARY

Q3 year-to-date, provincial and two 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.

DID YOU KNOW

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	Q3 YTD		Trend *	2015-16 Target
				2014-15 Last Year	2015-16 Current		
Provincial	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	2.9	↑	2.6
South Zone (JackAdy Cancer Centre)	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	↓	1.0
Calgary Zone (Tom Baker Cancer Centre)	3.1	3.1	3.6	3.7	2.6	↑	2.7
Central Zone (Central Alberta Cancer Centre)	N/A	3.9	2.1	2.1	2.0	↑	n/a
Edmonton Zone (Cross Cancer Institute)	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	→	2.6

N/A: No results available. Central Alberta Cancer Centre opened November 2013. Grande Prairie Cancer Centre is tentatively 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	Q3 YTD	
				2014-15 Last Year	2015-16 Current
Provincial	7,093	7,182	7,439	5,577	5,793
South Zone	414	431	415	304	298
Calgary Zone	2,916	2,803	2,911	2,154	2,420
Central Zone	N/A	145	425	316	355
Edmonton Zone	3,763	3,803	3,688	2,803	2,720

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.