

Access to Radiation Therapy

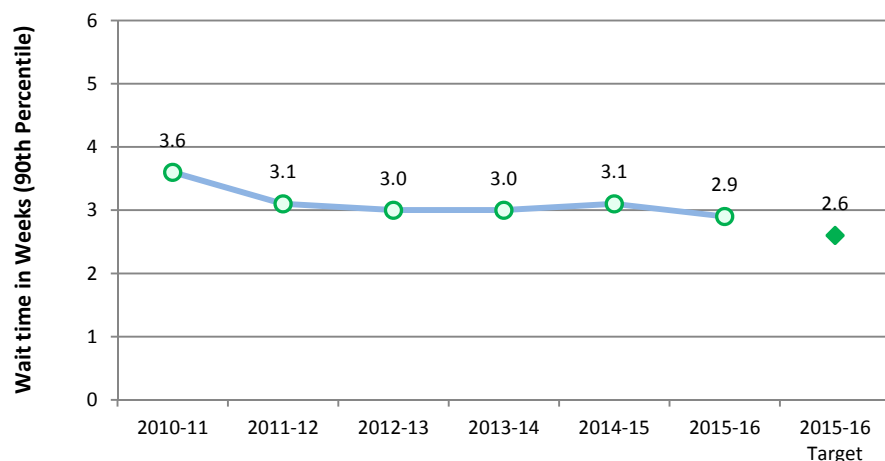
Measure Definition

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.

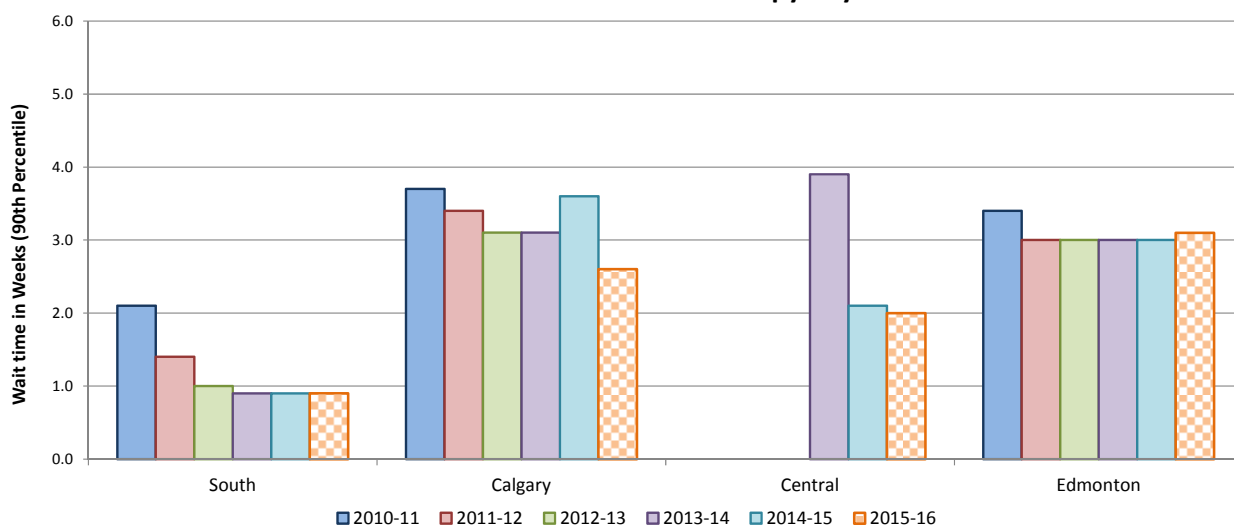
Access to Radiation Therapy - Annual



How Do We Compare?

Alberta ranks 3rd best nationally among nine provinces.

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 Alberta Thoracic Oncology Program (ATOP) continues to grow and surgical wait times are showing improvement. In Q4, 682 referrals were made compared to 651 referrals in 2014-15. Surgical wait times from decision to treat until surgery improved from 58 days in Q4 2014-15 compared to 50 days in Q4 2015-16.
- Improvements in staff scheduling and cancellation processes at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre (TBCC) Ambulatory Clinic have helped to decrease patient wait times.
- Provincially, radiation wait times had a slight decrease in the last month. For April 2016, the wait time for ready to treat to treatment for radiotherapy was 19 days which is one day higher than the AHS provincial target (2.6 weeks or 18.2 days).
- Jack Ady Cancer Centre and Central Alberta Cancer Centre consistently achieved well below the AHS target of 18 days for the last four quarters. TBCC has met this target for the last three quarters, whereas Cross Cancer Institute (CCI) has been over target ranging between 19 to 24 days over the last four quarters.
- The wait time target was achieved for just under half of the referral tumor groups over the last 12 months. Breast, GI-colon/rectum, Head and Neck, Central Nervous System, and Musculoskeletal did not meet the target as each group showed between 80% - 85% of patients treated within the target. Prostate, GI-other, Gynecology, Lymphoma, Cutaneous ranged between 86% and 90% of patients treated within the target.
- At TBCC, Ready-to-Treat to radiation therapy treatment wait time decreased by a day to 18 for April 2016 which meets the target set by TBCC.
- CCI has set their wait time target at 20 days which was achieved in April 2016.
- CACC has set their target at 10 days which was achieved and remained the same as the previous month.
- JACC has set their target at 5 days. The wait time for Ready-to-Treat to radiation therapy treatment for April was 8 days, therefore the target was not achieved this past month. This was an increase of 4 days wait time from March 2016.
- The national wait time target is 28 days. This has been achieved by all facilities for the past 12 months.

IN SUMMARY

Q4 year-to-date, provincial and two zone results improved since the same period as last year. Two zones are at or above 2015-16 target.

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	Q4 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	0.9	→	1.0
Calgary Zone (Tom Baker Cancer Centre)	3.1	3.1	3.6	3.6	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	3.0	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	Q4 YTD	
				2014-15 Last Year	2015-16 Current
Provincial	7,093	7,182	7,438	7,438	7,854
South Zone	414	431	415	415	421
Calgary Zone	2,916	2,803	2,910	2,910	3,269
Central Zone	N/A	145	425	425	485
Edmonton Zone	3,763	3,803	3,688	3,688	3,679

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.