

Access to Radiation Therapy

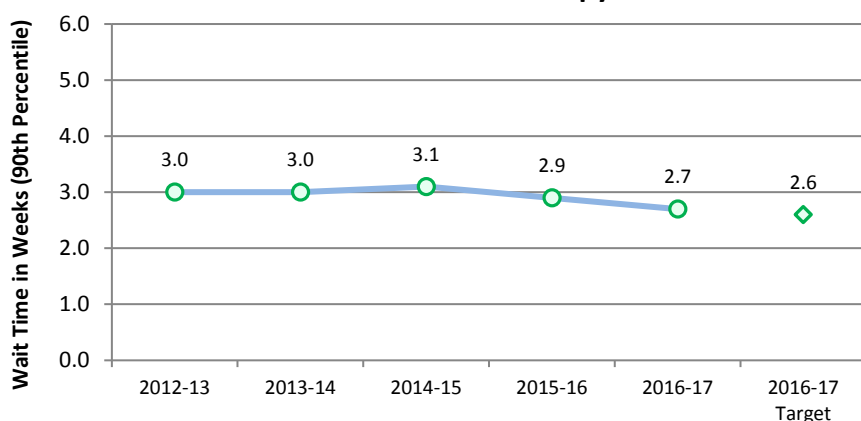
Measure Definition

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 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 Central Alberta Cancer Centre in Red Deer. The data applies only to patients receiving external beam radiation therapy.

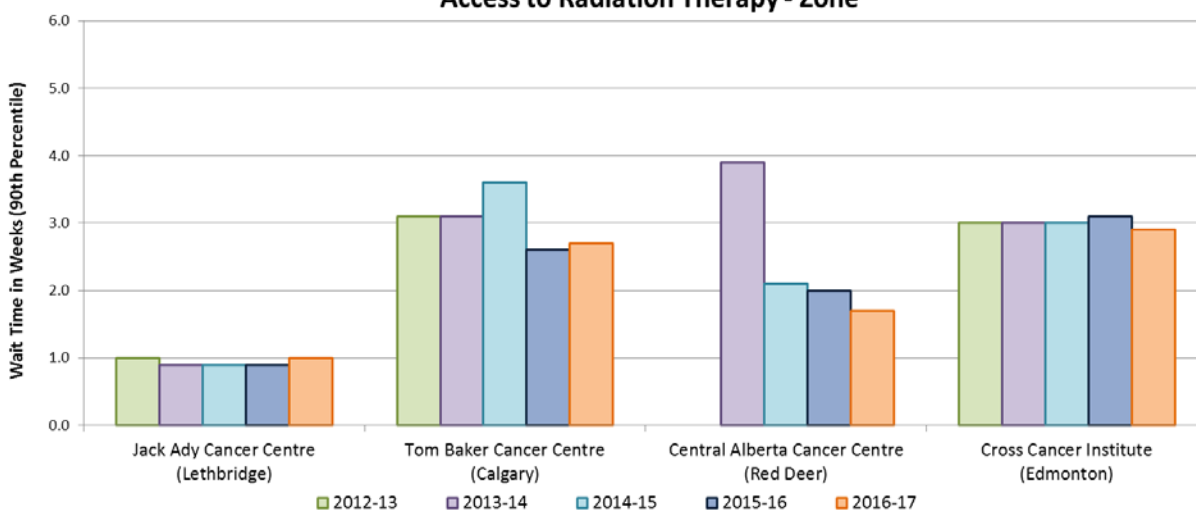
Access to Radiation Therapy - Annual



How Do We Compare?

Alberta ranks 4th best nationally among nine provinces in Q2 YTD 2016-17.

Access to Radiation Therapy - 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

HIGHLIGHTS

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

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. Radiation therapy will become available in the North Zone at the Grande Prairie Cancer Centre which is planned to open in 2019.

Several initiatives were undertaken across the province to improve access to radiation therapy.

- The Community Paramedic program and Tom Baker Cancer Centre (TBCC) partnered to deliver supportive care interventions such as hydration, electrolyte replacement and transfusions to cancer patients outside of acute care. This partnership resulted in over 1,500 patients receiving care at home rather than going to the hospital. This program has enhanced the patient experience, supported better symptom management, decreased TBCC and emergency department visits, and increased emergency medical services job satisfaction.
- An electronic Putting Patient First form was completed to support how providers respond to priority issues identified by patients. It includes a newly developed dashboard to help identify patients who have significant symptoms.
- Investments were made in community and regional cancer centres to enhance patient access to care closer to home. This included expanding clinic hours and opening the newly renovated High River, Hinton, and Barrhead Community Cancer Centres.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Jack Ady Cancer Centre (JACC) and Cross Cancer Institute Cancer Centre (CCI) achieved target for Q4 YTD. Provincial and Central Alberta Cancer Centre (CACC) demonstrated improvement from the same period as last year. A deeper analysis of data (not shown) finds that Calgary's Tom Baker Cancer Centre (TBCC) deteriorated from the same period as last year but improved quarter over quarter (Q1 = 2.7 weeks, Q2 = 2.9 weeks and met the target in Q3 and Q4 = 2.6 weeks).

The number of cancer care patient visits increased by 4%, from over 616,200 in 2015-16 to over 640,500 visits in 2016-17, while wait times for radiation therapy and chemotherapy remained steady.

The national wait time target is 28 days. This has been achieved by all facilities for the past 12 months. In addition, 90% of the provincial wait time target (18 days for first radiation treatment) was achieved for several referral tumor groups over the last 12 month including lung, lymphoma, genito-urinary, skin, hematology and bladder; and 85% of the target was achieved for breast, prostate, gastro-intestinal, central nervous system, musculoskeletal and endocrine.

The number of curative radiation therapy techniques and palliative radiation oncology clinics that improve treatment quality, efficiency and patient experience increased by 9.4% to over 124,200 treatments in 2016-17 compared to 113,500 in 2015-16.

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Access to Radiation Therapy (Weeks)	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Q4 YTD		Trend	2016-17 Target
				2015-16 Last Year	2016-17 Current		
Trend: ★ Target Achieved; ✓ Improving; ⇌ Stable; ✖ Performance not improving							
Provincial	3.0	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.7	✓	2.6
Jack Ady Cancer Centre (Lethbridge)	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	★	1.0
Tom Baker Cancer Centre (Calgary)	3.1	3.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	✖	2.6
Central Alberta Cancer Centre (Red Deer)	N/A	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.7	✓	1.4
Cross Cancer Institute (Edmonton)	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	2.9	★	2.9

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.

* "Stable" trend indicates when current period performance is ≤ 3% from the same time period as last year.

Number of Patients who Started Radiation Therapy	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Q4 YTD	
				2015-16 Last Year	2016-17 Current
Provincial	7,182	7,438	7,855	7,855	8,122
Jack Ady Cancer Centre (Lethbridge)	431	415	421	421	438
Tom Baker Cancer Centre (Calgary)	2,803	2,910	3,270	3,270	3,292
Central Alberta Cancer Centre (Red Deer) *	145	425	485	485	483
Cross Cancer Institute (Edmonton)	3,803	3,688	3,679	3,679	3,909

* 2013-14 Values for Central Alberta Cancer Centre are only for a partial year as it opened November 2013.