Alberta Rectal Cancer Initiative
Implementation of a provincial rectal cancer care pathway improves care

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... in partnership with the Cancer Strategic Clinical Network

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Rectal Cancer Care

Best practice is efficient, cost effective and provides better outcomes

Issue:
Variable practice
Variable reporting

Variable outcomes
Aim and Methods

Aim
• Create and implement a provincial evidence-based care pathway to standardize rectal cancer care and improve outcomes.

Methods
• Base line data collection from all disciplines (2010-2013)
• Discipline specific goals and quality measures were identified
• Focused discipline specific educational initiatives
• Adoption of standardized care and synoptic reports
• Personalized clinician feedback on quality measures (individual and aggregate)
Use of preoperative staging MRI has increased from 53% to 67%
Improvements in Surgical Technique

- 91% specimens - grade 1 (complete) or grade 2 (near complete)

- Circumferential margin positivity – 7%

Grade 1

Grade 3
Completeness of pathology reports

- Mandatory data elements
- Synoptic reporting
- Quality metrics (Mean)

% complete

2013
2015

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Conclusion

Implementation of a provincial care pathway for rectal cancer has improved:

- Preoperative staging
- Pathologic reporting
- Surgical outcomes

- This model is sustainable and adaptable to other tumour groups

Best practice is efficient, cost effective and provides better outcomes