

Radiation Therapy Wait Time: Ready-to-Treat to First Radiation Therapy

Full data definition sign-off complete.

Name of Measure	Access to Cancer Treatment – Radiation Therapy The maximum time that nine out of ten people will wait (in weeks) from the time of a medical prescription for radiation therapy to the start of radiation therapy, by facility
Name of Measure (short)	Ready-to-Treat to First Radiation Therapy
Definition	The number of days from the date the patient was physically ready to commence treatment to the date the patient received his/her first radiation therapy.
Domain	Domain: Health Service Delivery Dimensions: Acceptability, accessibility, appropriateness, and efficiency
Type of Measure	Process measure
Business Context	AHS Strategic Direction AHS 2010 – 2015 Health Plan: Improving Health for All Albertans Becoming the Best: Alberta's 5-Year Health Action Plan 2010-2015 Directive D4-2010: External Beam Radiation Therapy Access Policy
Rationale	There are actually three indicators that are relevant and important for the above definition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The percentage of patients who started radiation therapy within 28 days (the Provincial/Territorial Benchmark) • Number of weeks by which 50% of patients had initiated radiation treatment • Number of weeks by which 90% of patients had initiated radiation treatment <p>The purpose of these indicators is to provide a high-level perspective of how quickly patients who received radiation therapy over a given time period of interest received it from the point in time when they could have received it.</p>
Notes for Interpretation	Currently there are three facilities that provide radiation therapy: Cross Cancer Institute, Tom Baker Cancer Center, and Lethbridge (opened late June 2010) that are included in reporting. Reporting for Lethbridge commenced in January 2011. Two more facilities will open over the next 4 years as part of the RT Corridor project: one in Red Deer and the other in Grande Prairie. These sites will be added to the reporting once they have 3 full months of data.
Organizational Strategy	Alberta Health Services Cancer Care has completed a two phase productivity study for radiation services. The second phase included engagement of a consultant to apply LEAN principles to radiation services at the Cross Cancer Institute and the Tom Baker Cancer Centre. This measure is used to determine how increased productivity can impact RT wait times.
Benchmark Comparisons	The national benchmark is 2 weeks. The target in Alberta is 4 weeks.
Cited References:	The national benchmark is based on recommendations from the Canadian Association of Radiation Oncologists. The provincial benchmark is based on the Provincial/Territorial governments benchmark announced in 2006.

Radiation Therapy Wait Time: Ready-to-Treat to First Radiation Therapy (*continued*)

Technical Specifications	
Metric	Percentage and number of days
Preferred Display Format	99.9% and 9,999
Numerator	Number of patients who received radiation therapy within 28 days.
Inclusion Criteria for Numerator	Patients who started radiation therapy in 27 days or less of their ready-to-treat date
Exclusion Criteria for Numerator	Patients who initiated first radiation therapy within the time period of the report but in 28 or more days of their ready-to-treat date.
Data Source(s) for Numerator	Raw data collection is via the cancer electronic medical record, ARIA. Report generation is via the cancer data warehouse.
Refresh Rate of Numerator	Weekly
Denominator	Number of patients who started radiation therapy within the reporting time period.
Inclusion Criteria for Denominator	Patients who began a course of radiation therapy within the reporting time period.
Exclusion Criteria for Denominator	Patients who did not initiate radiation therapy during the reporting time period
Data Source(s) for Denominator	Raw data collection is via the cancer electronic medical record, ARIA. Report generation is via the cancer data warehouse.
Refresh Rate of Denominator	Weekly
Technical Notes	N/A
Calculation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Percent within 28 days is calculated by the number who began radiation in 27 days or less from their ready-to-treat date divided by the total number of patients who initiated a course of radiation within the time period of interest. 2. 50th% is calculated by identifying the number of elapsed days since the ready-to-treat date by which time half of the patients who received radiation in the time period had received it. 3. 90th% is calculated by identifying the number of elapsed days since the ready-to-treat date by which time 90% of the patients who received radiation in the time period had received it.
Relationship to Other Indicators	<p>As listed under Calculation, there are three indicators for the interval “time from ready to treat to first radiation therapy,” % seen within the benchmark, median time and 90th percentile time. The denominator is the same for all three indicators and the numerator is different according to the indicator calculation.</p> <p>Radiation therapy (referral to first consult with a radiation oncologist).</p>
Level of Reporting	Facility and Provincial.

Radiation Therapy Wait Time: Ready-to-Treat to First Radiation Therapy (*continued*)

Frequency of Reporting	Monthly
Limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a high level indicator, it does not reflect individual patient “appropriate” care, as appropriateness should take into account the urgency of each patients’ need for treatment. Very complete. Fairly good validity, however, not all patients need to receive treatment with the same urgency. Sometimes a longer time period is expected dependent on the type of cancer. Urgency of treatment is not reflected in the above measures. Data are available approximately 2 weeks after the end of the month.

Document Version History

Version	Version Date	Summary of Changes
1.0	May 18, 2010	Final version for initial use.
	May 31, 2010	Transfer to final approved version.
1.1	June 4, 2010	Completed the blank sections
	June 5, 2010	Change title to reflect Consolidated Dashboard naming. Review and adjust formatting.
	June 30, 2010	Add approval statement.
	July 22, 2010	Align title and measure names.
1.2	November 15, 2010	Update context based on collaboration with AHW.
1.3	November 15, 2010	Update context based on collaboration with AHW, specifically removing.
1.4	December 20, 2010	Update business context.
2.0	January 12, 2011	Version ready for signoff.
2.1	August 13, 2011	Added Comments
2.2	September 28, 2011	Updated Domain, Rationale, Notes for Interpretation, Organization Strategy, Benchmark Comparison, Exclusion Criteria for Numerator, Relationship to Other Indicators, Limitations
3.0	December 22, 2011	Version ready for signoff
3.1	January 10, 2012	Full data definition signoff completed. AHS completed signoff of Version 2.0 on May 3, 2011, after which AHW made some minor revision and incremented the version number completing signoff on January 10, 2012.