

ALBERTA-BRITISH COLUMBIA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

ACCESS TO RADIATION THERAPY

BETWEEN:

Her Majesty the Queen in right of Alberta
as represented by the Minister of Health and Wellness
(hereinafter called "Alberta")

and

Her Majesty the Queen in Right of the Province of British Columbia
as represented by the Minister of Health
(hereinafter called "British Columbia")

(collectively the "Provinces")

WHEREAS:

The Provinces intend to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with respect to a collaborative approach to providing timely access to radiation therapy for residents in the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia.

THE PROVINCES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

A. GOALS:

1. The primary goals of the collaborative approach between the Provinces are:
 - a. to respond to surge capacity demands for radiation therapy in Alberta and British Columbia;
 - b. to provide timely access to radiation therapy services by utilizing the existing health system capacity and health human resources in Alberta and British Columbia in an efficient and cost effective manner; and
 - c. to expand the health system capacity in Alberta and British Columbia to better serve those residents requiring radiation therapy.
2. The Provinces wish to explore ways and methods to realize those goals.

B. STRATEGY:

1. The Provinces agree to develop an approach utilizing and expanding upon existing health system capacity to provide timely access to radiation therapy in both of the Provinces through:

- a. use of an inter-provincial approach to radiation therapy;
 - b. inter and intra-provincial patient transfers;
 - c. interagency and interdisciplinary collaboration;
 - d. joint planning for the delivery of radiation therapy;
 - e. joint planning and review of standards for access; and
 - f. identification of areas of specialization.
2. It shall be the responsibility of each Province, to the extent that it is reasonably practical, to:
- a. Review and assess the current and future demand and supply for radiation therapy services;
 - b. Determine current and future and current demand and supply in the context of prioritization for access targets and provincial/territorial benchmarks established for radiation therapy;
 - c. Review and assess the health system capacity required to provide timely access to radiation therapy; and
 - d. Involve the relevant cancer boards and agencies, regional health authorities, and other related health providers in the research, planning and implementation of an interprovincial approach to radiation therapy access.

C. REPORTING:

The Deputy Ministers will provide an initial progress report to the Ministers of the Provinces by January 31, 2008 and will continue to report progress, results, and the recommended approach at least on an annual basis.

D. INTENTION OF PROVINCES

This MOU is intended to state general principles and record the Provinces' intentions. It is not intended to create any legally binding obligation on the part of the Provinces.

E. AMENDING THE MOU

While the goals expressed in this MOU may be met by each of the Provinces developing separate processes and procedures, one result may be an amendment to this MOU or a further agreement or agreements between the Provinces that furthers the goals set out herein. This MOU may be amended by a written amending agreement signed by both Provinces.

F. REVIEW:

A formal evaluation of progress made against the goals of this MOU will be undertaken at five years from the signing of the MOU.

G. WITHDRAWAL:

Either Province may withdraw its participation under this MOU with reasonable written notice to the other Province.

H. TERM:

This MOU will commence on the date signed by the Provinces as set out immediately below and shall, subject to early withdrawal by Alberta or British Columbia, expire ten years from the date of signing.

Signed at Edmonton
18 day of May, 2007

Signed at Edmonton
18 day of May, 2007

original signed

original signed

The Honourable Dave Hancock
Minister of Health and Wellness
Government of Alberta

The Honourable George Abbott
Minister of Health
Government of British Columbia