Wait Times for Radiation Therapy (Percentiles)

Name: Wait Times for Radiation Therapy (Percentiles)
Short/Other Names: Not applicable
Description: The number of days patients waited, from the date they were ready to treat to the date of their first radiation therapy treatment
Interpretation: 50th percentile means a time period that typical patients have to wait to receive care.
90th percentile means that provinces could treat 90% of patients within that time period.
HSP Framework Dimension: Health System Outputs: Access to comprehensive, high-quality health services
Areas of Need: Getting Better
Geographic Coverage: All provinces/territories except Quebec
Reporting Level/Disaggregation: National, Province/Territory
Indicator Results: http://waittimes.cihi.ca/All/radiation

Indicator Description and Calculation
Description: The number of days patients waited, from the date they were ready to treat to the date of their first radiation therapy treatment
Calculation: This indicator is calculated based on provincial and national wait time data for the first two quarters of the fiscal year (April–September).
Measures:
Wait times are obtained by calculating
1. The number of days that half the patients in the sample received the treatment and half are still waiting (50th percentile)
2. The number of days that 90% of patients in the sample received the treatment and 10% are still waiting (90th percentile)
Unit of Analysis: Client or patient
Calculation of all-Canada estimates:
All-Canada Median and 90th Percentile Waits
The national estimate for the 50th and 90th percentiles was calculated using a weighted average of provincial submissions. Weights were calculated using provincially submitted surgical volumes.
Calculation: Geographic Assignment
Place of service
Calculation: Type of Measurement
Number - 50th percentile, 90th percentile
Calculation: Adjustment Applied
None
Calculation: Method of Adjustment
Not applicable
Denominator
Description: Not applicable
 Numerator
Description: Not applicable
1. The number of days that half the patients in the sample received the treatment and half are still waiting (50th percentile)
2. The number of days that 90% of patients in the sample received the treatment and 10% are still waiting (90th percentile)
Inclusions:
1. Age 18 and older
2. Radiation, any site
3. All referrals to start or initiate radiation treatment
4. All priority levels and all cancer types

Background, Interpretation and Benchmarks
In 2004, Canada’s first ministers agreed to work toward reducing wait times for five priority areas: cancer treatment, cardiac care, diagnostic imaging, joint replacement and sight restoration. CIHI was mandated to collect wait time information and monitor provincial progress in meeting benchmarks.

**Rationale**

Many factors affect wait times, for example, availability of resources, efficiency of a particular facility, seasonal effects, volumes, patient choice, patient condition, follow-up care and/or treatment complexity.

This indicator can be used to understand access to care and to know how provinces are performing in terms of providing access to services. 50th percentile means a time period that typical patients have to wait to receive care.

**Interpretation**

90th percentile means that provinces could treat 90% of patients within that time period.

**HSP Framework Dimension**

Health System Outputs: Access to comprehensive, high-quality health services

**Areas of Need**

Getting Better

**Targets/Benchmarks**

Within 4 weeks (28 days)


**References**

Provincial Wait Times Registry, Data may come from various sources, depending on the province.

**Type of Year:**

Fiscal

**First Available Year:**

2008

**Last Available Year:**

2018

**Geographic Coverage**

All provinces/territories except Quebec

**Reporting Level/Disaggregation**

National, Province/Territory

Every year

**Web Tool:**

Wait Times [http://waittimes.cihi.ca/All/radiation](http://waittimes.cihi.ca/All/radiation)

There might be some provincial exceptions to the standard methodology each year. For more information, visit the Wait Times website and view provincial exceptions ([http://waittimes.cihi.ca/All/radiation](http://waittimes.cihi.ca/All/radiation)).

**Quality Statement**

Some provinces may have some exceptions and their methodology may be slightly different than the standard methodology. For more information, visit the Wait Times website and view provincial exceptions ([http://waittimes.cihi.ca/All/radiation](http://waittimes.cihi.ca/All/radiation)).

Since 2008, an increasing number of provinces have adapted to the standard methodology to increase the comparability of results. When comparing data for a particular province over time, attention should be given to the exceptions. For more information, visit the Wait Times website and view provincial exceptions ([http://waittimes.cihi.ca/All/radiation](http://waittimes.cihi.ca/All/radiation)).

**Caveats and Limitations**

Not applicable