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**Indicator Results**

http://yourhealthsystem.cih.ca/inbrief/?lang=en#!indicators/003/radiation-treatment-wait-times

**Calculation: Description**

Percentage of patients within a province who received their first radiation therapy within the benchmark (28 days) from the date they were ready to be treated.

This indicator is calculated based on provincial and national wait time data for the first two quarters of the fiscal year (April–September).

The percentage within the benchmark is calculated by dividing the number of cases who received care within the benchmark by all cases, multiplied by 100.

Unit of Analysis: Client or patient

**Calculation: Geographic Assignment**

Place of service

**Calculation: Type of Measurement**

Percentage or proportion

**Calculation: Adjustment Applied**

None

**Calculation: Method of Adjustment**

Not applicable

**Description:**

Number of adults who received their first radiation therapy

**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

**Description:**

Number of adults who received the first radiation therapy within 28 days (4 weeks) from the date they were ready to be treated

**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 rolled up

**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 help understand access to care and to know how provinces are performing in providing access to services.

Interpretation

The greater the percentage meeting the benchmark, the greater the proportion of patients in that province who received treatment within the benchmark (28 days).

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


Availability of Data Sources and Results

Data Sources

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

Reporting Level/Disaggregation

National, Province/Territory

Update Frequency

Every year

Indicator Results Web Tool:

Your Health System: In Brief

URL: http://yourhealthsystem.cihi.ca/inbrief/?la=lang-en#indicadores/003/radiation-treatment-wait-times

Updates

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

Quality Statement Caveats and Limitations

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).

Trending Issues

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).

Comments

Not applicable