

The Northern Cancer Control Strategy Business Plan Overview

Total annual new cancer diagnosis cases in northern BC will increase from 1061 in 2007 to 1219 in 2012. Based on this projection, the business plan proposed enhancements to each component of the cancer care continuum of services. Following is a brief overview of the proposed program enhancements which have been included in the Northern Cancer Control Strategy Business Plan:

Prevention – prevention programs will be strengthened to reduce primary preventable risk factors by adding Nicotine Intervention and Cessation Coordinators and Cancer Prevention Coordinators throughout the North, as well as a Regional Team Integration Leader.

Screening – hereditary cancer screening will be enhanced to improve cancer outcomes. It is proposed that an additional Genetic Counsellor, Medical Geneticist, and High Risk Clinic Physician/Nurse will be added in the North

Navigation – pathways will be created that will allow health care professionals to independently and confidently provide navigation support to clients/families and to proactively guide patients through and around the barriers in the complex cancer care system. Additional Navigation Resources will enhance the current navigation resources allocated to the North.

Detection and Diagnosis

- Medical Imaging Department will have its workloads increased by 2 – 9% and additional technologists to support this increased load have been proposed as well as an additional X-Ray facility and a Digital X-Ray unit.
- Laboratory will have its workloads increased and additional technologist support has been proposed. Additionally, a part-time Anatomical Pathologist will be added.

Treatment

Northern Health

- Community Cancer Clinics – the management and administrative structures will be strengthened to implement the recommendations from the Systemic Therapy Review. Two additional Community Cancer Clinics will be established and additional General Practitioner Oncologist sessions for all the Community Cancer Clinics have been proposed.
- Surgical Oncology Services – a strategy will be developed in collaboration with BCCA and the Surgical Oncology Network following consultation with all the relevant general surgeons, urologists and gynecologists.
- Systemic Therapy at PGRH – to begin to establish a BCCA medical oncology service in the North and to provide outreach services to the Community Cancer Clinics across the North, the

following has been proposed: 3 additional Medical Oncologists, and additional sessions per week for General Practitioner Oncologists, with additional clinical (nursing) support.

- Inpatient Care – A dedicated 6 bed inpatient oncology service will be available with supporting registered nurses.

British Columbia Cancer Agency

A Regional BCCA Cancer Centre would complement the Northern Cancer Control Strategy by offering the following:

- Multi-disciplinary consultation and care planning for new patients.
- Chemotherapy and systemic care – 6-8 chemotherapy chairs with several Medical Oncologists planned for 2012.
- Radiation therapy – with 2 linear accelerators and several Radiation Oncologists planned for 2012.
- Access to national and international clinical trials.
- Supportive care and pain/symptom management services.
- Nutritional consultation and rehabilitation support.
- Patient and community education in cancer prevention.
- Professional education/liaison for community based cancer control programs.
- Staffing levels will be according to the staffing ratios at the other BCCA Cancer Centres.

Support Services

- Home and Community Based Care - will be enhanced by increasing 24/7 consultation and palliative care support in Prince George, community partnership initiatives, and by enhancing the PixaLere Wound Care Management System. A back referrals hub supported with a registered nurse will facilitate information transfer for patients referred back to their communities from Prince George.
- Oncology Nutrition Services - lowering the incidence of malnutrition including pre-treatment weight loss and progressive weight loss during treatment and decreasing the incidence of treatment delays/cessation related to malnutrition will require dieticians to support systemic therapy at PGRH and cancer services in the North and to support radiation oncology services at the Regional BCCA Cancer Centre. Additional dietary support has been proposed with telemedicine capacity to allow dieticians to provide their services to outlying communities.
- Psychosocial support - will be established to improve psychosocial/counselling and services in the North with the support of a psychologist, social workers, and a psychosocial practice leader
- Rehabilitation services - will be enhanced with physiotherapist, occupational therapist, and speech language pathology support.

Enablers:

- Information Technology/Telemedicine: An information technology and telemedicine infrastructure will allow Northern Health Oncology Staff to access the CAIS system. An improved Telemedicine Infrastructure in the North and in Vancouver will enhance services at existing Community Cancer sites and PGRH. Hired schedulers will facilitate telemedicine meetings between patients and



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healthcare providers, and registered nurses who will act as Telehealth Site Coordinators will facilitate telemedicine sessions with patients.

- Monitoring, Research and Evaluation: A Cancer Care Research & Evaluation Coordinator will be hired to provide leadership with regard to the building of an evaluation and monitoring framework for the strategy and to coordinate program monitoring and evaluation. In addition, work will be undertaken to partner with academic institutions and the BCCA to develop an evaluation and research plan for the Northern Cancer Control Strategy.
- Primary Health Care and Aboriginal Health: Integration with the Primary Health Care component will be facilitated by several Primary Care Cancer Liaisons. Northern cancer issues will also be raised in future through the Aboriginal Health Improvement Committees

Lodging:

- The Canadian Cancer Society will be building a lodge on, or near, PGRH to provide affordable accommodations for patients visiting PGRH for cancer treatment.

If you are interested in further details, or would like to be informed of future developments, please contact Dan Le at dan.le@northernhealth.ca