

Waiting Times by Province, 2001 and 2002

By calendar year unless otherwise noted

Province	2001	2002																		
Newfoundland and Labrador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New patient referrals to cancer program are assessed weekly and patients are prioritized according to disease staging. Maximum waiting time for non-urgent patients is approx. 4-6 weeks. Waiting periods for chemotherapy are relatively short and do not generally exceed one week. Maximum waiting period for routine radiation therapy is 6 weeks. No answer available for diagnostic services 	<p>Waiting Time: average wait times from referral to an appointment with an oncologist by major disease site</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1071 321 1528 493"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Radiation Oncology</th> <th>Medical Oncology</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Breast</td> <td>32 days</td> <td>23 days</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lung</td> <td>13 days</td> <td>14 days</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prostate</td> <td>30 days</td> <td>10 days</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G.I.</td> <td>22 days</td> <td>20 days</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ENT</td> <td>7 days</td> <td>7 days</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Average Time – Wait 2C (from consultation appointment to treatment):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Radiation Oncology; 3–4 weeks Medical Oncology; 1 week 		Radiation Oncology	Medical Oncology	Breast	32 days	23 days	Lung	13 days	14 days	Prostate	30 days	10 days	G.I.	22 days	20 days	ENT	7 days	7 days
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Prince Edward Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not available 	<p>The average length of time a patient waits between a request for an appointment at the PEI Cancer Treatment Centre until the patient sees an oncologist for breast, prostate, lung and colorectal cancer is as follows:</p> <p>Breast: 14.4 days Prostate: 5.7 days Lung: 5.0 days Colorectal: 10.3 days</p> <p>A patient seeing a medical oncologist in the PEI Cancer Treatment Centre begins chemotherapy for breast, prostate, lung and colorectal cancer immediately without a wait unless there is a delay for a diagnostic test or for a patient preference in treatment time.</p> <p>Wait times from first appointment at the Centre to time of treatment for patients receiving radiation treatment via cobalt unit for 2002:</p> <p>Colorectal: 14 days Lung: 15.8 days Breast: 58.8 days (includes delays due to surgery and chemotherapy)</p>																		
Nova Scotia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No systematized information on waiting times available 	Data not readily available.																		
New Brunswick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not available 	The Head of the Department of Oncology Dr. S.E. Kumar was not in a position to be able to provide the data as requested.																		
Quebec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waits of more than 8 weeks exist at some regional cancer centres because patients refuse transfers between institutions. These transfers are available arranged by the Ministry of health at no cost to the patient. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The province has data on waiting times for radiotherapy and surgical oncology. Work is currently being undertaken to standardize the information. Waiting time information will not be available until this work is complete. 																		

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Manitoba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average waiting time for radiation therapy is 4-5 weeks. Urgent cases seen sooner. No waiting lists for systemic therapy except for some waiting time for first appointments for more common cancers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average waiting time for radiation therapy is 4-5 weeks. Urgent cases seen sooner (virtually no wait) with less urgent cases waiting longer. No waiting lists for systemic therapy. Some waiting time for 1st appointments for some of the bigger disease site groups – times vary from site group No information regarding length of time between the patient's appointment with the oncologist to the time tests are conducted – too many factors affect result including: urgency, type whether or not there are waiting lists for the specific test in question 																				
Saskatchewan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not collect provincial waiting times for radiation and chemotherapy. Data is available from date of diagnosis to start of treatment – but request a standard definition. 	Converting to a new software system therefore information not readily available.																				
Alberta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard waiting times for radiation is 4 weeks maximum – prostate cancer is a little over 4 weeks. 	Currently preparing information																				
British Columbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial standard says maximum of 2 weeks waiting time for an oncology appointment. This standard is generally met, except when dealing with temporary shortages of medical oncologists – in this case there may be a delay of up to 4 weeks. Maximum 2 weeks waiting time from a physician writing a chemotherapy treatment order and treatment. Median waiting time for radiation therapy is between 1-2 weeks. 	<p>Systemic Therapy: *fiscal 2002-03 <i>Definition:</i> The number of calendar days from the date of referral to the first available appointment with a medical oncologist in a regional cancer centre. Data presented is the mean calculated from the quarterly report of "days until the next available appointment slot", as calculated on the last day of the fiscal period for individual cancer centres. This is 'snapshot' data used for planning purposes. Data represents all regional cancer centres.</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Breast:</td><td>14.8 days</td></tr> <tr><td>Genito-urinary:</td><td>11.2 days</td></tr> <tr><td>Lung:</td><td>9.7 days</td></tr> <tr><td>Gastrointestinal:</td><td>13.9 days</td></tr> </table> <p>Radiation Therapy: <i>Definition:</i> The number of calendar days from the date of referral to the first available appointment with a radiation oncologist in a regional cancer centre. Data presented is the mean calculated from the quarterly report of "days until the next</p>	Breast:	14.8 days	Genito-urinary:	11.2 days	Lung:	9.7 days	Gastrointestinal:	13.9 days												
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		<p>available appointment slot", as calculated on the last day of the fiscal period for individual cancer centres. This is 'snapshot' data used for planning purposes. Data represents all regional cancer centres.</p> <p>Breast: 16.0 days Genito-urinary: 17.6 days Lung: 13.6 days Gastrointestinal: 11.7 days</p> <p><i>Definition:</i> The time interval between the date the patient is determined to be medically able to receive treatment (ready-to-treat) and the date the patient receives treatment. Data presented is the mean of the median wait time as calculated on the last day of the fiscal period. This is 'snapshot' data used for planning purposes. Data represents all regional cancer centres.</p> <p>Breast: 15.4 days Genito-urinary: 16.1 days Lung: 5.4 days Gastrointestinal: 9.6 days</p> <p>In practice, the BCCA is achieving its goal of seeing patients for consultation within 14 calendar days of receipt of referral, and of initiating treatment within 14 calendar days of when the patient is determined to be medically able to receive the treatment.</p>
Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Yukon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None requested – very small numbers