

Radiation Therapy Professional Advisory Committee (RTPAC): Strategies to Manage Radiation Therapy Wait Time “Ready-to-Treat-to-Treatment” Performance in Ontario

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1 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Ready-to-treat-to-treatment (RTT) is a key performance indicator for Ontario Regional Cancer Programs (RCPs)

The ready to treat date is the date the patient is ready to begin treatment excluding any planned delay

RCPs work to minimize and mitigate the delay in radiation therapy wait times for patients

This study sought to identify factors impacting the RTT indicator and mitigation strategies used across RCPs

2 METHODS

An online questionnaire was distributed to radiation therapy managers representing the 15 treatment facilities in Ontario via the Radiation Therapy Professional Advisory Committee (RTPAC)

Open-ended text responses were analyzed using qualitative thematic analysis

Quantitative descriptive analysis was completed for general characteristics

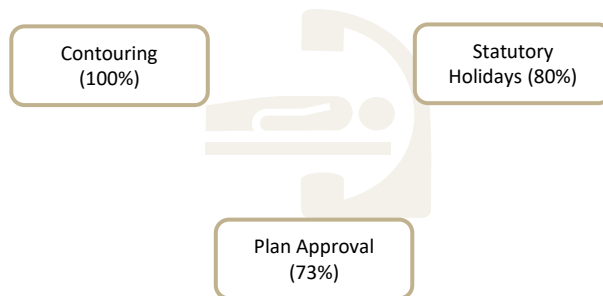
3 RESULTS

100% response rate representing all RCPs in Ontario (n=15)

Contributing Factors - Plan Delay



Contributing Factors - Treatment Start Delay



4 DISCUSSION

RCPs identified approaches to mitigating plan delays including:

- Internal reports for monitoring and audits
- Schedule CT simulation on same day as consult
- Extended hours, overtime and or weekend treatments

5 CONCLUSION

Various strategies are used to manage RTT wait times across Ontario

RCPs may leverage these strategies to address wait time performance

These are of particular importance with the emerging health human resource constraints in Radiation Therapy

6 FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Explore modifying RTT metric considering statutory holidays and timelines

Explore the impact of scripting and auto-contouring to support planning and treatment of specialty techniques and disease sites