

MOBILE RADIATION UNIT PROVIDING TREATMENT FOR ONTARIO CANCER PATIENTS

May 1, 2008

Ontarians across the Ottawa region now have improved access to cancer treatment with the opening of a new Mobile Radiation Unit at The Ottawa Hospital. The mobile unit began serving patients on April 8, 2008.

This new and innovative machine is one of the first of its kind in Canada, with the only other unit at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie.

WHAT IS A CANCER BUNKER?

A cancer bunker is a room specifically designed and constructed for the delivery of radiation treatment to patients. This type of procedure requires specially designed rooms, or bunkers, to contain the radiation produced by high energy equipment during treatment. These rooms are typically made of thick concrete walls based on standards determined by the Canada Nuclear Safety Commission.

WHAT IS A MOBILE RADIATION UNIT?

A mobile radiation unit is a portable radiation treatment room. Unlike the permanent cancer bunker, mobile units are built using materials that can be disassembled and moved to a different location. This allows health care professionals to treat cancer patients in communities that are without a permanent radiation treatment facility.

RADIATION TREATMENT

Radiation therapy provides treatment for a wide range of cancer types. It can be used for both primary treatment and palliative care. The goal of radiation therapy is to kill cancerous cells.

RADIATION BUNKERS IN ONTARIO

There are currently 86 permanent and mobile radiation bunkers operating in Ontario. Each bunker is equipped with one radiation machine. Each mobile unit is expected to treat up to 400 patients annually, reducing the wait times for patients who are waiting to receive cancer treatment.