

IMPROVING ACCESS TO CANCER TREATMENT

The McGuinty government is improving access to cancer treatment for patients by investing \$38.45 million to replace and upgrade radiation therapy equipment throughout the province. Listed below is a breakdown of the funding:

Princess Margaret Hospital is being allocated more than \$18.4 million for the following radiation equipment purchases this year:

Item	Funding
4 Linear Accelerators	12,400,000
3 CT Simulator	3,820,000
Treatment Planning and Integration Systems	1,230,000
Brachytherapy Equipment	950,000
Other Related Equipment (Bladder Scanners, Phantome)	50,000
Total Planned Purchases 2004/05	18,450,000

Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) is being allocated \$20 million for the following radiation therapy equipment for 2004-2005:

Regional Cancer Centre	Radiotherapy Equipment Description	Funding
Hamilton Regional Cancer Centre	Linear accelerator	2,535,000
Kingston Regional Cancer Centre	Linear accelerator	2,535,000
London Regional Cancer Centre	CT Simulator	1,725,000
Northeastern Ontario Regional Cancer Centre (Sudbury)	Brachytherapy Equipment	595,000
	Treatment Planning System	500,000
Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre	Linear Accelerator	2,535,000
	Linear Accelerator (with Tomography)	3,075,000
	Bunker Upgrade	1,000,000
Toronto Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Centre	Treatment Planning System	1,500,000
All RCC's are currently preparing proposals for CCO – individual RCC allocations to be determined	Integration Systems	4,000,000
Total Planned Purchases 2004/05		20,000,000

The type of equipment to be purchased are listed below:

Linear Accelerator

A type of electrical machine that produces X-ray beams that are directed at a patient's tumour from multiple directions to kill the tumour cells.

Linear Accelerator with Tomography

This linear accelerator has the added benefit of being able to take 3D images during treatment.

CT Simulator

A device that uses CT technology and special simulation software to show the exact location of the patient's tumour and internal organs compared to the planned direction of the radiation beams.

Brachytherapy Equipment

A radiation treatment device safely stores radioactive pellets used in brachytherapy to destroy a patient's tumour. The equipment also allows the pellets to be inserted into and out of the tumour through the course of treatment safely sparing healthy tissue.

Treatment Planning System

This equipment allows for the planning of a patient's radiation treatment including the calculation of beam arrangements, shielding requirements, and doses of radiation to be delivered to the tumour during treatment.

Integration Systems

This equipment is required to input 3D images and other patient data into the treatment planning system to enable the treatment plan to be administered and recorded.

Bladder Scanner

This is a hand-held ultrasound device used during some radiation therapy procedures to determine the location and dimension of the bladder.

Phantome

A Phantome is an object made of plastic that reacts to radiation like human tissue. It is used during treatment simulation to verify the direction of the treatment beam.

Bunker Upgrade

A process in which the lead shielding of the bunker housing the new equipment may need to be reinforced in some cases in addition to other physical bunker changes.