OBJECTIVES

- To ensure the provision of outpatient cancer drugs within Alberta Health Services (AHS) at no charge to eligible residents for the treatment of cancer.

- To establish consistent processes for the administration of outpatient cancer drugs that ensures quality patient care and contributes to patient safety.

PRINCIPLES

Subject to conditions set out in the Outpatient Cancer Drug Benefit Program, AHS shall provide cancer drugs, at no charge to eligible residents, who are admitted as outpatients to Cancer Centres (see Appendix A: Cancer Centres) for the treatment of cancer.

Cancer drugs approved for administration directly to persons admitted as outpatients at Cancer Centres shall be administered at designated Cancer Centres established for that purpose. AHS shall not cover drug costs incurred from the administration of outpatient cancer drugs at locations that are not designated Cancer Centres.

APPLICABILITY

Compliance with this document is required by all Alberta Health Services employees, members of the medical and midwifery staffs, Students, Volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of Alberta Health Services (including contracted service providers as necessary).
ELEMENTS

1. Outpatient Cancer Drug Benefit Program
   1.1 The conditions for the use of cancer drugs and the Schedule of Cancer Drugs are established through Ministerial Order and are set out in the Outpatient Cancer Drug Benefit Program.

2. Administration of Outpatient Cancer Drugs at Cancer Centres
   2.1 Cancer drugs approved for administration directly to outpatients at Cancer Centres, as set out in the Outpatient Cancer Drug Benefit Program, shall be administered at designated Cancer Centres only.

3. Request For and Approval of the Establishment of Additional Cancer Centres
   3.1 Requests for the establishment of additional Cancer Centres for the purpose of outpatient cancer drug administration must be submitted to the Chief Program Officer (CPO), CancerControl Alberta through the AHS Cancer Centre Designation Request Procedure.

   3.2 The CPO, CancerControl Alberta may reject or approve the request. If the CPO approves the request, the CPO may submit the request to the Minister of Alberta Health for ministerial approval.

   3.3 Ministerial approval of a proposed additional Cancer Centre is required before outpatient cancer drugs may be administered at the additional Cancer Centre.

DEFINITIONS

Cancer Centre means the centres approved by the Minister of Alberta Health.

Cancer drug means a medication that is specified in the Schedule of Cancer Drugs, set out in the Outpatient Cancer Drug Benefit Program, established by order of the Minister of Alberta Health from time to time.

Eligible resident means, for the purpose of this document, a person who:

   a) holds a valid certificate of registration under the Health Insurance Premiums Act;

   b) is registered in the Cancer Registry with a disease classified in the International Classification of Diseases for Oncology; and

   c) requires cancer drugs to treat cancer.

Outpatient means a patient staying at home or in another facility that is not a designated hospital in Alberta or who is accepted as a registered patient for goods or services offered or delivered by, on behalf of or in conjunction with Alberta Health Services, but who returns to their normal abode after the good or service is rendered or delivered.
Patient means an adult or child who receives or has requested health care or services from Alberta Health Services and its health care providers or individuals authorized to act on behalf of Alberta Health Services. This term is inclusive of residents, clients and outpatients.

REFERENCES

- Appendix A: Cancer Centres
- Alberta Health Services Governance Documents:
  - Cancer Centre Designation Request Procedure (#HCS-01-01)
- Alberta Health Services Resources:
  - Outpatient Cancer Drug Benefit Program
- Non-Alberta Health Services Documents:
  - Cancer Programs Act (Alberta)
  - Cancer Registry Regulation (Alberta)
  - Health Insurance Premiums Act (Alberta)
  - Ministerial Order 50/2010 (Alberta Health)

VERSION HISTORY

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APPENDIX A

Cancer Centres

(Approved by the Minister of Alberta Health, set out in Ministerial Order 50/2010, effective July 1, 2010):

- Alberta Children’s Hospital
- Stollery Children’s Hospital
- Peter Lougheed Centre
- University of Alberta Hospital
- Tom Baker Cancer Centre, and the following associate and community centres:
  - Lethbridge Cancer Centre
  - Medicine Hat Cancer Centre
  - Drumheller Community Cancer Centre
  - High River Community Cancer Centre
  - Bow Valley Community Cancer Centre
- Cross Cancer Institute, and the following associate and community centres:
  - Central Alberta Cancer Centre (Red Deer)
  - Grande Prairie Cancer Centre
  - Barrhead Community Cancer Centre
  - Bonnyville Community Cancer Centre
  - Camrose Community Cancer Centre
  - Fort McMurray Community Cancer Centre
  - Hinton Community Cancer Centre
  - Peace River Community Cancer Centre
  - Lloydminster Community Cancer Centre
  - Drayton Valley Community Cancer Centre