

REDUCING CANCER CONFUSION

New Manitoba Clinical Cancer Pathways Available

Provincial clinical subject matter experts have worked together to help inform and develop clinical pathways in breast, lung, colon and rectal cancers. In accordance with the goals of the In Sixty initiative, the pathways also include ideal target timelines to move from suspicion to first treatment in 60 days or less, based upon subject matter expert experiences with the health care system.

The initial releases of the clinical pathways for breast and lung cancers are now available for use and review by all clinicians in the Manitoba health care system until March 15, 2014. Pathways can be found in the “Health Care Professionals” section of www.cancercare.mb.ca. (Colon and rectal cancers will be posted soon.)

Why is this important to you and your patients?

We all know the cancer journey can be confusing for our patients, but it’s also often difficult for clinicians to determine the best path to follow to reduce delays. Clearly defined clinical pathways for providers to follow can have a significant impact in decreasing confusion on which tests to perform and which services to refer patients on to.

Until now, coordinated pathways for specific cancers have not existed in Manitoba. Through the In Sixty initiative, a significant amount of time and effort has been focused toward developing ideal clinical routes and referrals from primary care suspicion through diagnostic testing and to first treatment options, with target maximum timelines to improve the wait times for a cancer patient journey.

The In Sixty Initiative and the clinical subject matter experts are requesting that you follow the pathways with breast, lung and colorectal cancer patients, and provide feedback on any areas of that may need adjustment. Please help improve the journey for your cancer patients by visiting www.cancercare.mb.ca and clicking on Health Care Professionals (or directly at this link: http://www.cancercare.mb.ca/home/health_care_professionals/cancer_patient_journey/) to begin putting the pathways for breast, lung and colorectal cancers into practice.

The In Sixty initiative will use the pathways and your feedback (by March 15, 2014) on them as a basis for system improvement. There is still work to be done within Manitoba to the processes aligned with the clinical pathway timelines. As clinicians follow these clinical pathways there will be measurable improvement in unnecessary delays and a greater ability for the initiative to evaluate exactly where process improvements need to occur across the system.