



## Ontario Cancer Plan 2019 – 2023 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### 1. Who is Cancer Care Ontario?

Cancer Care Ontario is the Ontario government's principal cancer advisor and a division of CCO. We\* equip health professionals, organizations and policy-makers with the most up-to-date cancer knowledge and tools to prevent cancer and deliver high-quality patient care.

As part of our work, we:

- Collect and analyze data about cancer services and combine it with evidence and research that is shared with the healthcare community in the form of guidelines and standards.
- Monitor and measure the performance of the cancer system.
- Oversee a funding and governance model that ties funding to performance, making healthcare providers more accountable and ensuring value for investments in the system.
- Engage cancer patients and their families in the design, delivery and evaluation of Ontario's cancer system.

The work of Ontario's 14 Regional Cancer Programs is especially important in helping to meet the goals of the Ontario Cancer Plan and improve the quality and delivery of cancer services.

### 2. What changes are happening to Cancer Care Ontario in the future?

In time, Cancer Care Ontario's work will be taken on by Ontario Health, a single agency that will oversee healthcare delivery in the province, improve clinical guidance and support providers to ensure better quality care for patients.

### 3. What is the Ontario Cancer Plan?

Ontario Cancer Plan 2019–2023 builds on that solid foundation. It provides a roadmap for how Cancer Care Ontario, the Regional Cancer Programs, health system partners, and, in time, Ontario Health will work together to reduce Ontarians' risk of developing cancer and improve outcomes for those affected by cancer.

The plan covers the full cancer care continuum, including prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, recovery, survivorship or end-of-life care.

#### **4. Why do we need a cancer plan?**

Nearly one out of every two Ontarians will develop cancer in their lifetime. This stark statistic highlights the importance of a well-organized cancer system for the province. Since 2005, multi-year provincial cancer plans have led to improvements in the quality and performance of Ontario's cancer system. The Ontario Cancer Plan assures the people of Ontario that there is a system in place dedicated to reducing their risk of developing cancer and providing high-quality care if and when they need it.

The goals and strategic objectives in the plan help to:

- identify priorities to guide work at all levels
- focus efforts where they are most needed
- advise the government to direct major initiatives and funding decisions
- develop program-level strategic plans
- bring together many partners within a complex health system.

#### **5. Who was involved in the development of this Ontario Cancer Plan?**

In the development of this Ontario Cancer Plan, Cancer Care Ontario consulted with staff across the organization, the Regional Cancer Programs, including patient and family advisors. We are grateful for their insights and expertise.

#### **6. How were patients and families involved in the development of this plan?**

Patient and family advisors were an integral part of developing this plan at every stage. Their input, based on first-hand experience of the cancer system, shaped the plan's priorities and helped create goals and strategic objectives that better address the needs and values of the people of Ontario. Patient and family voices were heard and incorporated in the development of the plan through a variety of means, including: meetings, teleconferences and focus groups; collaborative document review; and shared stories to bring the plan to life.

#### **7. How does this plan build on previous cancer plans and other health system plans?**

Since 2005, multi-year provincial cancer plans have led to improvements in the quality and performance of Ontario's cancer system. Each plan builds on the progress achieved, incorporates lessons learned as well as work that needs to advance from previous plans.

The fifth Ontario Cancer Plan builds on that foundation. It identifies areas that need to advance, new opportunities for improvement and emerging areas within the cancer environment that will require attention in coming years.

This plan uses a framework adopted by the National Academy of Medicine, which describes a high-quality healthcare system as:

- person-centred
- safe
- equitable
- efficient
- effective
- timely

All three system plans for 2019 to 2023 – Ontario Cancer Plan, Ontario Renal Plan and Access to Care Plan – share this common framework.

#### **8. What happens to the initiatives that were part of the previous Ontario Cancer Plans?**

Much has been accomplished under the previous plans, but there is still more to do in order to meet the challenges ahead and seize the opportunities of today's changing healthcare environment. Initiatives that continue to address current gaps in the system and those that align with the strategic objectives in this fifth plan will continue.

#### **9. How will progress be measured and reported?**

We\* are accountable to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, our partners and the people of Ontario for meeting the commitments outlined in this plan.

Annual business plans submitted to the ministry and detailed internal operating plans set out how projects and programs will be developed and put in place to support the plan's goals and strategic objectives.


There is a robust measurement plan and performance indicators to measure progress.

Progress is reported in several ways:

- Annual report
- Quarterly and special program reports
- Quarterly reports on our accountability and funding agreements

Also, the Cancer Quality Council of Ontario monitors and publicly reports on the performance of the cancer system through the [Cancer System Quality Index](#). This index tracks Ontario's progress towards improving the quality of cancer control, provides international comparisons, and highlights opportunities to improve.

All of this information is used to adjust planning and respond to changes.



**10. How will the plan be put into action and how will the Regional Cancer Programs use the Ontario Cancer Plan?**

We\* will work with our many partners to put this plan into action. Initiatives that support the plan will be implemented. Program-level strategic plans, which align to the Ontario Cancer Plan, will be developed to highlight more specific areas of focus. The Regional Cancer Programs will also develop regional cancer plans that bring the objectives and initiatives of the cancer plan to life at the local level.

\*Throughout the Ontario Cancer Plan FAQ, “we” refers to Cancer Care Ontario and, in time, Ontario Health.