

## Cancer Patient Journey

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Many patients in Manitoba find that the Cancer journey, from suspicion of cancer to initiation of treatment, is complex, difficult to understand, and highly stressful. Over 6,000 patients are diagnosed annually with cancer whilst up to ten times more undergo investigations for suspected cancer. The majority of patients with suspected cancer turn out not to have cancer, however the journey is traumatic and impacts large numbers of families. Delays heighten anxiety in all cases and may critically affect clinical outcomes (e.g. advanced stages of disease require costly more intensive treatment costs and have reduced survival rates).

In early 2011 a proposal was collaboratively developed by CancerCare Manitoba, the Regional Health Authorities, Manitoba Health, and Diagnostic Services Manitoba towards improvement of cancer access, processes, integration, and wait times in the province. In June, 2011 the Province of Manitoba announced an investment towards the creation of a comprehensive, aggressive and first-in-Canada cancer strategy to break down barriers and work across provincial jurisdictions to streamline and re-engineer cancer processes and approaches in a manner that reduces the overall wait time for patients to no longer than 60 days from suspicion to treatment.

In November 2011 the Manitoba Cancer Partnership Steering Committee was established to provide oversight and coordination of the following deliverables established to achieve the goal of reducing the wait time from suspicion of cancer to treatment by 2016:

- Implement a Rapid Improvement Initiative to improve efficiency and quality of care through targeted improvement initiatives within each stakeholder care environment
- Develop and Implement Rapid Diagnostic Networks and pathways.
- Implement navigator supported Patient Journey Trackers resulting in effective and efficient coordination, integration and transitions between care environments.
- Expand Community Cancer Program (CCP) sites to become hubs for cancer patient navigation and supportive services in rural and northern settings.
- Partner with First Nation, Métis, Inuit and at risk populations to establish and implement the Vulnerable Population Cancer Program
- Enhance accountability and epidemiology to establish a measurement, monitoring and compliance strategy with protocols