

CLINICAL SPECIALIST RADIATION THERAPIST SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

PHASE I CSRT DESCRIPTIONS

Title: Palliative Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist

Location: Odette Cancer Centre, Toronto, ON

The Rapid Response Radiotherapy Program (“RRRP”) is a special program at OCC designed to enhance the services provided to acutely ill palliative patients requiring radiation therapy. The Palliative CSRT in this program works in the daily palliative clinic alongside the five attending physicians, five primary nurses, a radiation therapist, and a variety of oncology residents and fellows. The CSRT reviews all referrals for appropriateness, redirects those that are not, and organizes information for those who are given appointments. In clinic, the CSRT conducts targeted patient assessment and, if the patient is to receive palliative radiation therapy, conducts the placement of treatment fields/borders, prescribes the treatment regimen, creates an optimized computerized treatment plan, and reviews patient set up on the first day of treatment. The CSRT is also the first point of contact for patients receiving palliative radiotherapy, and for those who have completed treatment and been discharged. The CSRT is active in recruiting patients to the various research projects (including clinical trials) being undertaken in the RRRP, and supervising the residents and fellows in the conduct of their projects. Patient, professional and community education are also part of this CSRT position. With the implementation of this CSRT position, the program hoped to further enhance the timeliness and quality of services provided to their current patient population and eventually to extend its services into areas currently not accessing the program.

Title: Palliative Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist

Location: Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto, ON

The Palliative CSRT at PMH entered into an existing rapid response program for palliative patients. This busy specialized clinic sees almost 900 patients per year. The CSRT is part of an interdisciplinary team that includes five radiation oncologists and one advanced practice nurse. The CSRT assumes a patient caseload in each clinic with primary responsibility for patient assessment, review and interpretation of results and establishing care plans for those patients. All decisions are reviewed with attending oncologist and, once approved, the CSRT then expedites planning activities including initiating booking, entering treatment prescription and performing dictation, ordering planning activities and, where necessary, completing the computerized treatment plans. The technical expertise of the CSRT facilitates a smooth transition from “decision-to-treat” to “treat” by enhancing communication between the different groups involved in the process. The CSRT is also actively involved in many of the research activities taking place within the team and program. Through the addition of the CSRT role, the program sought to improve service to the program’s patients, decrease wait times for patients in the system and improve access to care for palliative patients requiring radiation therapy.

Title: Patient Assessment and Symptom Management Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist**Location: Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto, ON**

The Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist, (CSRT) Patient Assessment and Symptom Management will function as a key resource for breast patients undergoing radiation therapy at Princess Margaret Hospital. The CSRT functions within the multi-disciplinary breast site group to provide comprehensive, holistic care to breast patients during the course of their radiation therapy treatment by complementing and supplementing supportive care provided by the health care team. Working closely with the multi-disciplinary breast team, the CSRT, has in depth knowledge of clinical assessment, available technology, treatment planning and delivery, and patient support in radiation therapy. Through patient assessment the CSRT attends to expected radiation reactions utilizing self-care measures and standards; prescribing medications from a defined list of pharmaceuticals and referring those who require more in-depth care to other relevant health care professionals/programs. The CSRT contributes to the development and delivery of quality radiation services within the Program and participates in the education of peers, other health care professionals, as well as patients and their care-givers. The CSRT also contributes to improvement in patient outcome by conducting research on symptoms and side effects and their relationship to treatment methods, and on new technologies and approaches to treatment and patient care. At the program level the CSRT applies leadership, research and educational expertise to enhance the application of evidence-based practice, principles of best practice and quality practices, and works with external stakeholders to enhance access and utilization of the service, and adds new services as identified and appropriate.

Title: Skin Cancer Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist**Location: Odette Cancer Centre, Toronto, ON**

The Skin Cancer CSRT works in the Skin Site Group at OCC. The CSRT is a member of an interprofessional team that includes a dermatologist/pathologist, three radiation oncologists, three plastic surgeons and a nurse. The CSRT conducts numerous activities across the continuum of care ranging from referral triaging, conducting new patient assessment and history taking, reviewing and communicating pathological results, performing clinical mark ups for patients to receive radiation therapy, and serving as the primary point of contact for patients during and after they complete radiation therapy. Additional activities include the involvement of the CSRT in research protocols, patient teaching and development of educational materials, and maintenance of study and teaching databases. The introduction of this CSRT position improves the efficiency of the clinic, and streamlines the delivery of radiotherapy services to the relevant patients, thereby reducing wait times to enter the clinic, moves patients through the system more quickly and provides much needed opportunity for oncologist and pathologist to focus on more discipline specific activities, thereby improving access to the clinic.

Title: Target Visualization and Delineation Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist**Location: Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto, ON**

The Target Visualization and Delineation CSRT at PMH works in the busy Head and Neck clinic at PMH. This very large interprofessional practice sees upwards of 600 new patients annually. In addition, with the advent of new technology and approaches to radiation therapy, the technical challenges associated with this program are very high. This CSRT works primarily on the review and assessment of images used to identify relevant anatomical structures and to prepare many of the necessary contours on those images for computerized treatment planning. Contouring is an extremely difficult and highly specific activity – consistency in contouring is regarded as critical to maximizing outcomes for this cohort of patients. In addition to visualization and delineation activities, the CSRT is responsible for education and evaluation of the pre-certification residents and students, protocol improvement and involvement in the diverse research initiatives taking place within the site group.

PHASE II CSRT DESCRIPTIONS

Title: Bone Metastasis Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist (BMCSRT)

Location: Juravinski Cancer Centre, Hamilton, ON

The Bone Metastasis Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist (BMCSRT) is an experienced Therapist with post-graduate qualification and experience with Palliative Radiation Oncology. Working closely with a team of Radiation Oncologists, Primary Care Nurses, and the Supportive Care team, the BMCSRT applies advanced, in-depth knowledge to the clinical activities of assessment, patient education, pain management, radiation planning and treatment delivery, and patient support in palliative radiation therapy. The BMCSRT contributes to the development and timely provision of palliative services within the Radiation Oncology Program and participates in the education of peers, other health professionals and students, as well as patients and their caregivers. The BMCSRT is also responsible for developing a portfolio of clinically relevant research including patient-related and treatment-related outcomes.

He/She integrates theoretical, research and practical knowledge to exercise sound judgment across complex and varying social, cultural and organizational contexts making a unique and significant contribution to the timely provision of excellent radiation therapy treatment and patient care to this population of palliative patients in the cancer care system.

Title: Head and Neck Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist (HNCSRT)

Location: Juravinski Cancer Centre, Hamilton, ON

The Head and Neck Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist (HNCSRT) is an experienced therapist with post-graduate qualification and expertise in the treatment of head and neck cancers. The HNCSRT is a member of a multidisciplinary team responsible for ensuring quality patient care and the seamless flow of patient care from referral to follow-up. The HNCSRT liaises with and provides technical and clinical consultation with the Radiation Oncologists; Surgeons; Medical Oncologists; Primary Care, Radiation, and Advanced Practice Nurses, Radiation Therapists; Medical Physicists; and Dietitians to ensure efficient, timely and high-quality care. The HNCSRT is responsible for assessing the patient, creating a care plan, obtaining consent, educating the patient on expected toxicities, weekly review and follow-up care. The HNCSRT provides comprehensive patient care before, during and after radiation therapy. The HNCSRT is also responsible for developing a portfolio of clinically relevant research including patient-related and treatment-related outcomes, and Adaptive Radiation Therapy, which involves re-planning during treatment due to tissue volume change.

Title: Palliative Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist (Brain and Bone metastases)

Location: Cancer Centre of South Eastern Ontario, Kingston, ON

The specified patient population for this role is patients who are diagnosed with brain or bone metastases who are candidates for palliative radiation therapy. The CSRT specializes in palliative radiation therapy and has advanced expertise in the clinical and technical perspectives of palliative radiation medicine. The CSRT working in collaboration with a multi-disciplinary team will share their expertise in clinical assessment, technical knowledge, treatment planning and delivery and supportive care in palliative radiation therapy. The CSRT will provide excellence in comprehensive and holistic patient care before, during and after radiation therapy. The CSRT will contribute to the development and delivery of quality palliative services within the program and participates in the education of peers, other health care professionals within the LHIN, as well as patients and their caregivers and the community at large. The CSRT will apply leadership, research and educational expertise to enhance the application of evidence-based practice, principles of best practice and quality practice and will partner with external stakeholders to enhance access and efficient utilization of palliative radiation therapy services.

Title: Palliative Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist**Location: Ottawa Hospital Cancer Center, Ottawa, ON**

The Palliative Care CSRT is a highly competent academic practitioner with advanced knowledge, skills and judgment in the assessment and management of patients requiring palliative radiation therapy. The CSRT integrates theoretical, research and practical knowledge and applies this knowledge to ensure the timely provision of excellent radiation therapy treatment and patient care in the Rapid Palliation (RPAL) program. The CSRT, as delegated by the radiation oncologist, coordinates appointments, is responsible for the simulation, treatment and follow up of predefined set of RPAL patients – from single treatment to fractionated regimes up to 10 fractions. The Palliative CSRT also receives the normal referrals from the Champlain LHIN community physicians to RPAL. In the final phase of implementation, the CSRT will be completing assessment, referral, simulation, port-film sign-off and review autonomously. The position also includes psycho-social support and, in collaboration with the advanced practice palliative care nurse, coordination of community resources throughout the LHIN. The Palliative CSRT also leads 2 additional radiation therapists assigned to the RPAL clinic currently located at the Civic division.

Title: Tomotherapy/Adaptive Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist (Head & Neck Cancer)**Location: Ottawa Hospital Cancer Center, Ottawa, ON**

The Tomotherapy/Adaptive CSRT in Head and Neck is an experienced, competent radiation therapist with post graduate qualifications and proven expertise in the field of radiation therapy. He/she works closely with a multi-disciplinary team to prepare Head and Neck patients for complex curative radiation therapy, usually employing intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) techniques. The Tomo/Adaptive CSRT has proficiency and competency in the area of planning image definition and contouring of tumour and normal anatomical structures, has dosimetric and treatment planning knowledge and an understanding of how changes in the tumour volume impact IMRT delivery. The Tomo/Adaptive CSRT is also responsible for education of other health professions, specifically within The Ottawa Hospital Cancer Centre participating in the education of radiation therapists, physicians, physicists, and other medical personnel involved in the planning process. The Tomo/Adaptive CSRT is actively involved in research and uses the results to increase the body of knowledge in relation to IMRT contouring and planning.