

# Cancer Care Ontario

---

## Action Cancer Ontario

### DISEASE PATHWAY MAPS Pathway Map Development Methodology

#### **Methodology Overview**

The Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) Disease Pathway Map development methodology is an iterative and multidisciplinary process that is modeled upon the Program in Evidenced Based Care (PEBC)'s clinical guideline development cycle. The methodology emphasizes evidence-based medicine and, where evidence is insufficient, incorporates input from clinical experts in a consensus-driven manner. It is an evolving process that is continuously improving based on stakeholder feedback and input.

#### **Development Team**

Pathway development is led by the Disease Site Co-Chairs, with support from a team of clinical experts known as the Expert Panel. The Expert Panel spans across the cancer continuum, consisting of family physicians, surgeons, radiologists, oncologists, pathologists and nurses. All pathway development activities are supported by an administrative DPM team at CCO.

#### **Creation**

The initial pathway is developed by the Disease Site Co-Chairs with support from the DPM team. The pathway incorporates evidence from local, national and international clinical practice guidelines. Where evidence is insufficient, expert opinion from the Co-Chairs is used to inform the pathway.

#### **Expert Panel Review**

Following its creation, the draft pathway is subsequently reviewed and edited by the Expert Panel, in conjunction with the Disease Site Co-Chairs, in a consensus-driven manner.

#### **Clinical Council Review**

The edited pathway from the Expert Panel review is then circulated through CCO's Clinical Council. The Clinical Council comprises representatives from various CCO departments who have knowledge of the disease site. Members of the Clinical Council review the pathway and ensure it aligns with CCO's programmatic work. All feedback is collected and discussed with the Disease Site Co-Chairs.

#### **External Consultative Review**

The edited pathway from the Clinical Council review is then examined by a broader community of multidisciplinary experts via an External Consultative review process. This process, facilitated by CCO, allows the oncology community to provide feedback on the pathway. After closing the External Consultative Review, the Disease Site Co-Chairs consider the received feedback and revise the pathway where appropriate, together with support from the Expert Panel.

#### **Acknowledgement and Publication**

A list of the experts involved in the pathway map development is included within the final pathway and is also published as a separate document on the CCO website. The completed pathways are publicly available on CCO's external website.

#### **Updates**

Following publication, the disease pathway maps will be reviewed and updated annually, as applicable.