

September 30, 2013

NEW CANCER EQUIPMENT DELIVERS FASTER AND MORE PRECISE RADIOTHERAPY

Treatment for cancer patients in Saskatchewan took a giant step forward today, as the most advanced linear accelerator, TrueBeam, is now available in Saskatoon. The TrueBeam, the first of its kind in Saskatchewan, is designed to deliver radiotherapy to tumours with greater speed and accuracy.

“Acquiring the most advanced technology available for radiotherapy will help us better meet the current and future needs of cancer patients in Saskatchewan,” Health Minister Dustin Duncan said. “We are putting patients first with investments that enable improved, safe quality care.”

The TrueBeam can deliver higher doses more quickly and with greater precision and has better integration with imaging systems than any current or previous machines used. The system can also be customized which will allow the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency to provide leading edge treatment techniques to patients.

“This new technology combined with our oncologists’ and radiation therapists’ expertise will offer improved patient care,” Scott Livingstone, CEO of the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency said. “TrueBeam radiotherapy can be used for treatment of all cancer types, but it has the potential to open doors for the treatments of cancers in the lung, breast, prostate and spinal regions.”

The cost of the Truebeam and associated renovations at the Saskatoon Cancer Centre is approximately \$3.9M. The funds come from the Ministry of Health.

Installation is now complete. The system will soon be ready to treat its first cancer patient. During the 2012-13 year more than 37,000 radiation therapy sessions were conducted in Saskatchewan.

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