

PROTON THERAPY

Consultation Service



Proton Therapy Consultation Service

Proton therapy is an advanced form of precision cancer treatment, which may reduce unnecessary radiation dose to normal tissues while achieving tumour control. In some cases, patients treated with proton therapy may have fewer long-term side effects of radiation; hence, the value of proton therapy is being increasingly recognized across different disease sites.

Presently, Canada does not have a hospital-based proton therapy facility that can treat children or adults with cancer. As part of informing ongoing discussions regarding the value of proton therapy, we are offering a dosimetry consultation service for any Canadian radiation oncologist considering proton therapy for their pediatric or adult patients.

For physicians who are interested to know if there will be potential benefit in prescribing proton therapy over photon radiation therapy, **our service will create a proton plan for any referred patient to provide a quantitative estimate of dosimetric benefit for evaluation and educational purposes.**

This consultation service is not a part of the application and approval process for referring a patient for proton therapy in the United States. Applications to a patient's provincial ministry of health will be required as per usual.

If you are a patient, please contact your radiation oncologist for more information.

How to Request Our Services For Referring Physicians

1. A referral letter or [form](#) from a physician's office with the following details should be faxed to **416-946-2111**:
 - a) Reason for referral should be noted as "**Proton Consultation Service**"
 - b) Patient demographics, date of birth, and health card number
 - c) Referring physician name, contact information (phone/fax/e-mail) and billing number
 - d) Recent clinical notes, including diagnosis, indication for RT, and RT prescription
2. An RT-DICOM dataset with contoured targets (GTV, CTV, PTV) and organs-at-risk should be submitted to our team via your institutional file portal or [UHN FileShare](#), as well as a planning objective sheet (see page 2 of [form](#)). It is also recommended that the referring team submit a photon radiation plan.
3. The access link to the file portal should be submitted to: Protons@uhn.ca.
 - a) Place all files in a common folder and zip files using 7-Zip, WinZip or WinRAR.
 - b) Upload files using [UHN FileShare](#).
 - c) Select "**Patient Information**" level file protection
 - d) Document **both** the automatically-generated **Download Password** and **Unzip Password** you have created. (There are **two passwords**.)
 - e) Enter your email address. An email will be sent to this address containing a download link for your files.
 - f) Share the download link with Protons@uhn.ca and share the **two** passwords via Protons2@uhn.ca.

What to Expect

1. After receipt of details, proton planning will be performed by a team of trained dosimetrists, physicists, and radiation oncologists. If requested, a photon plan can be generated as well.
2. The Princess Margaret team will provide a written report and electronic imaging data (in RT-DICOM format) to the referring radiation oncology team, including key dosimetric parameters and dose-volume histograms.
3. Our goal is to provide a turnaround time of 2 working days from receipt of the referral, with a maximum time of 5 working days.
 - a) Proton plans that are created are not intended to be used for treatment delivery, but may be used by the referring team to guide treatment decision-making
 - b) There is no cost to the referring physician or patient for this service.

Patients with diagnoses that require urgent commencement of proton therapy (i.e. medulloblastoma) should not be referred for this consultation service to minimize delays to starting radiation.

Physician Referral Checklist

Optional [form](#) can be filled out.

Referral must include:

I. Patient information

- o Patient demographics
- o Date of birth
- o Health card number

II. Referring physician information

- o Name
- o Contact information (e-mail/phone/fax)
- o Billing number

III. Recent clinical notes with the following details:

- o Diagnosis
- o Indication for RT
- o RT prescription

IV. RT-DICOM dataset, including:

- o Diagnostic or planning CT dataset
- o RT-Struct including organs-at-risk, GTV, CTV, and PTV
- o Photon RT-Plan and RT-Dose (recommended)

Other Resources for Ontario Physicians

- [Out-of-Country Proton Referral Checklist \(CCO\)](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions for Patients and Families \(CCO\)](#)

Contact Us

If you have any inquiries about this service, please email:

Proton Consultation Service Coordinator

Protons@uhn.ca

Dr. Derek Tsang, Radiation Oncologist

Derek.Tsang@rmp.uhn.ca

For the latest information, please visit www.protonsatuhn.ca.



Radiation Medicine Program

Precision Radiation Medicine. Personalized Care. Global Impact.

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