

Stanton Chemotherapy Update – April, 2018

Chemotherapy services will resume at Stanton Territorial Hospital starting the week of April 16, 2018.

The repatriation of chemotherapy patients will be phased, beginning with patients receiving basic chemotherapy services.

What improvements have been made?

- Clinical staff completed training with CancerControl Alberta. This training included 2 online modules, a two-week on-site training course in Alberta and a site visit where representatives from CancerControl Alberta visited Stanton Territorial Hospital to verify training in the clinical setting where care will be delivered.
- Three nurses have completed updated national-level training in the delivery of cancer care; additional nurses are scheduled to undergo training to provide backup capacity.
- Four doctors have completed the physician training.
- Process mapping and referral pathways have been reviewed and revised.
- A site safety audit was completed in accordance with Accreditation Canada's standards of excellence in cancer care.
- Internal policies and procedures have been updated to align with best-practice.
- The chemotherapy suite at Stanton has undergone physical layout changes to help ensure a better experience for patients.
- Updated patient information on treatment and drugs have been acquired through CancerControl Alberta.
- Information pathways for patient data have been reviewed and revised to ensure accurate and timely transfer of patient information.

What does this mean for patients in the chemotherapy program?

- For some patients who are receiving basic chemotherapy services they will be repatriated to receive services at Stanton Territorial Hospital as soon as possible. This will reduce the need for medical travel and allow people to receive this service closer to home.
- For patients who are not immediately being repatriated their healthcare providers will continue to support them through their treatment, this will include assistance for medical travel where required.

How do you determine who gets treated in the NWT and who goes to Alberta?

- Drug type/toxicity, method of administration, and patient acuity determine the type of treatment required. These factors would influence whether or not a patient can be cared for in the NWT or would need to travel to Alberta.

When will other chemotherapy services be repatriated?

- The NTHSSA will continue to monitor the delivery of chemotherapy services for patients who have been repatriated. Progress will help determine when and what services are brought back online.
- We do not have definitive dates for further service repatriation, services will be brought back online when we are sure we can deliver them safely and to the high level of quality we strive for.
- Some patients will continue to travel to Alberta for part, or all, of their cancer treatment. This was the case before the chemotherapy program suspension. There are some services that are not provided in the NWT and new services are not being added at this time.

How will patients be informed?

- Informing patients is a high priority. Impacted patients will continue to be informed directly in advance of any public notices about program changes. All patients will be contacted directly to discuss their care including those who will not have their treatment repatriated at this time.

Who can people contact if they have questions or are concerned about their care?

- Cancer patients or their families who are currently receiving services at Stanton can direct questions about their plan of care to the Stanton Cancer Care Coordinator at 867-669-4310. Anyone with questions or concerns about their care in the past can contact our Quality, Safety and Client Experience staff at 867-669-4101.