



Cancer Care Ontario

February 7, 2017

Dear Dr. Webster,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding PET scanning in Ontario.

CCO is committed to Ontario's evidence-based approach for PET scanning to ensure that the needs of current and future patients are met. Since CCO began its current role in provincial PET services in 2010, there have been regular additions to funded indications and continued efforts to simplify referrals and ensure patients receive the care they need.

CCO partners with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and PET centres to provide streamlined and timely access to PET scans for patients with established and/or emerging indications. CCO also supports the evolution of the Ontario program to include new evidence-based indications. As you know, the PET Access Program is also available for case-by-case review for all patients for any indication, facilitating access to PET in clinical situations outside of the current indications.

The PET Steering Committee has an established process in place to review evidence to inform long-term funding decisions, which includes ongoing review of the scientific literature, analysis of registry and PET Access data, and advising on provincial clinical trials in areas where there are identified gaps in the existing literature. The Committee and CCO also engage with the relevant referring physician communities to understand the impact of the studies on patient care in the Ontario setting, in order to provide the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care with recommendations on the appropriate use of PET as a diagnostic or treatment assessment tool for patients.

We are committed to continuing to work in partnership with clinicians across the province and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to provide Ontario patients with timely access to PET scans, and look forward to working with Health Sciences North/Horizon Santé-Nord in support of their new scanner.

Regards,

Julian Dobranowski, MD, FRCPC  
Provincial Head, Cancer Imaging Program  
Cancer Care Ontario

---

620 University Ave, Toronto, ON M5G 2L7  
T 416.971.9800 | F 416.971.6888 | [publicaffairs@cancercare.on.ca](mailto:publicaffairs@cancercare.on.ca) | [cancercare.on.ca](http://cancercare.on.ca)

