



March 18, 2020

To all CEOs and CMOs
Regional Health Authorities in Manitoba

COVID-19 Update from CancerCare Manitoba

As we are entering the second week of managing the COVID-19 situation, it is important that I reach out to you so we can work together on the impact of COVID-19 on cancer service delivery across the province.

Cancer patients are often immunocompromised and consequently may be at greater risk if exposed to COVID-19. CCMB is focused on minimizing risk of transmission of COVID-19 to cancer patients and staff at CCMB sites, as well as across the province. With this in mind, CCMB Executive will be providing specific recommendations when required to staff and patients. This information is available on the CCMB website.

CCMB recommendations for patients at community cancer sites

- All cancer patients being seen at any cancer facility must be screened for travel and symptoms of COVID-19 on entrance to the facility. Please refer to the algorithm for screening for COVID-19 for cancer patients.
- For any patient that is screened positive, the Family Physician in Oncology (FPO) should be contacted to determine if the patient is to be seen in person.
- The FPO should call the patient's primary CCMB Medical Oncologist/Hematologist about any decision regarding treatment.

As a system, we are facing potential staff reductions which will impact cancer services. **If there is service interruption in cancer sites, please connect with CCMB at your earliest.**

Ruth Loewen, Director of the Community Oncology Program (COP) at CancerCare Manitoba, will be CCMB's main contact for overall planning and direction. She will work closely with CCMB Directors of Pharmacy (Pat Trozzo), COP Medical Director (Dr. Joel Gingerich), Primary Care Department Head (Dr. Tunji Fatoye), and the Executive Team at CCMB. Ruth can be contacted at: Rloewen2@cancercare.mb.ca; cell: 204-792-1066.

Ruth and team will be working with Regional leads that you identify and Pharmacy Directors.

Thank you for your continued commitment and support in caring for cancer patients across the province, especially during this time. Without our regional partners, this would not be possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sri Navaratnam".

Sri Navaratnam, MBBS, PhD, FRCPC
President and CEO
CancerCare Manitoba

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