

Bulletin



Bulletin Number 4452	Date July 12, 2007	Direct inquiries to Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Office Locations (address below)
Distribution Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics and Laboratories		

Subject: Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Studies/Programs Funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ontario, Canada

Positron emission tomography is a nuclear medicine diagnostic imaging procedure using positron emitting radiopharmaceuticals, often F18 fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG). Evidence suggests that PET may have a role in the assessment of certain cancers and myocardial viability. The FDG produced by most Ontario PET centres is currently not approved by Health Canada for routine clinical use, but may be used for research purposes. Furthermore, PET scanning is presently not an insured health service in Ontario.

Ontario PET Evaluation Studies (1st Step)

Based on recommendations of the Ontario PET Steering Committee and the Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) is funding:

- 5 PET clinical trials, and
- 2 PET registries, one for cancer patients, which includes 4 separate indications and one for cardiac patients.

Physicians may make a referral to a principal investigator of the appropriate clinical trial, or to the nuclear medicine department at the PET Registry Coordinating Centre for a registry study that matches the patient's condition. Eligible patients can receive a PET scan at participating health sciences centres in Toronto, Hamilton, London, or Ottawa. There will be no charge to the patient.

A brief description of each trial and its enrolment status as of May 31, 2007, as well as the contact information for the principle investigator at each centre, are summarized in Attachments 1 (Positron Emission Tomography Trials and Registry Funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care – 2 pages) and 2 (Ontario Pet Scan Access Program Request – 2 pages) this bulletin. This information is also available at the following website <http://ontariocancertrials.ca/>.

Office locations

Barrie 34 Simcoe St. Suite 102 L4N 6T4	Etobicoke 3300 Bloor St. W., Unit 142 M8X 2W8	Hamilton 119 King St. W 10th fl. P.O. Box 2280, Stn. A L8P 4Y7	Kenora 220-808 Robertson St. P9N 1X9	Kingston 1055 Princess St. P.O. Box 9000 K7L 5A9	Kitchener 1400 Weber St. E. Unit B2 N2A 3Z8	London 217 York St., 5th Floor Station A N6A 5P9
Mississauga 201 City Centre Dr. Suite 300 L5B 2T4	Newmarket 465 Davis Dr. Unit 108 L3Y 8T2	North Bay 101-447 McKeown Ave. P1B 9S9	North York 4400 Dufferin St N Unit A4-A5 M3H 6A8	Oakville Oakville Town Centre II 220 North Service Rd. W. L6M 2Y3	Oshawa Exec. Tower, Oshawa Centre. 419 King St. W. P.O. Box 635 L1J 7J2	Ottawa Fuller Building 75 Albert Street K1P 5Y9
Ottawa Government Service Centre 110 Laurier Ave W K1P 1J1	Owen Sound 1400 1st Ave. W Suite # 2. N4K 6Z9	Peterborough 300 Water St, 1st Fl North Tower K9J 3C7	St. Catharines 301 St. Paul St. Mezzanine Level L2R 3M8	Sarnia 452 Christina St. N. N7T 5W4	Sault Ste. Marie Roberta Bondar Place 70 Foster Dr., Ste. 100 P6A 6V4	Scarborough 2063 Lawrence Ave. E. M1R 2Z4
Sudbury 199 Larch St., Suite 801 P3E 5R1	Thunder Bay 435 James St. S. , Suite 113 P7E 6T1	Timmins 38 Pine St. N., Suite 110 P4N 6K6	Toronto 47 Sheppard Ave.E. Suite 417 M2N 7E7	Toronto-Downtown 777 Bay St. Suite M212 M5G 2C8	Windsor 1427 Ouellette Ave. N8X 1K1	Head Office P.O. Box 48 Kingston, ON K7L 5J3

Ontario PET Access Program (2nd step if your patient cannot access through Step 1)

If the patient is not identified as a candidate for any of the clinical trials or registry studies, the patient might still be able to receive a PET scan in Ontario, through the Ontario PET Access Program. A review process has recently been established by MOHLTC in conjunction with Cancer Care Ontario (see attachment 2 – Ontario Pet Scan Access Program Request). Through this review process, a radiologist, a nuclear medicine physician, and an oncologist, determine whether the patient is an appropriate candidate for a PET scan. If there is agreement that a PET scan would be appropriate, then the PET Access Office at the Hamilton Health Science Centre is notified and arrangements are made for this patient's referral to an appropriate Ontario PET Centre for the PET scan.

Before requesting a PET scan under the Ontario PET Access Program, it is advisable for the clinician to first review the summary of the clinical trials and registries (See attachment 1 – Step 1 - Positron Emission Tomography Trials and Registry Funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care). All efforts must be made to have the patient enrolled in one of the clinical studies or registry studies before considering the alternative described above as Step 2.