

Bulletin



Bulletin Number	Date	Direct inquiries to
4477	July 7, 2008	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Processing Sites
Distribution		(address below)
Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics and Laboratories		

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

This Bulletin is an update to Bulletin #4464 distributed February 1, 2008.

Positron emission tomography is a nuclear medicine diagnostic imaging procedure using positron emitting radiopharmaceuticals, often F18 fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG). Evidence supports a role for PET 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.

At present, PET scanning is not an insured health service in Ontario. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) has adopted an evidence-based approach to the introduction of PET imaging in the province. To ascertain the effectiveness of FDG-PET in the clinical management of patients, the MOHLTC is funding FDG-PET evaluative studies for specific indications.

This Bulletin provides a brief description of the ministry-funded PET studies/programs. Please read each section to determine which study or program may best meet the needs of your patient and **refer to the appropriate attachment for details and referral process**. Should you have any questions relating to the referral of patients to any of the ministry-funded PET evaluation studies or the Ontario PET Access Program, please call, **1-877-4PET-411** (1-877-473-8411).

PET Clinical Trials (Attachment 1)

- Five PET clinical trials were funded by the MOHLTC. **Three** of these trials are still recruiting patients while two have completed patient accrual and are now closed.

Eligibility for the three active trials:

- Patients with locally advanced head and neck cancer
- Stage III non-small cell lung cancer
- Liver metastases from colorectal cancer being considered for surgical resection

Processing Sites			
Hamilton 119 King Street West, 10 th Floor P.O. Box 2280, Stn A L8P 4Y7	Kingston 1055 Princess Street, Suite 401 P.O. Box 9000 K7L 5A9	London 217 York Street, 5 th Floor Station A N6A 5P9	Mississauga 201 City Centre Drive Suite 300 L5B 2T4
Oshawa Executive Tower, Oshawa Centre 419 King Street West P.O. Box 635 L1J 7J2	Ottawa Fuller Building 75 Albert Street K1P 5Y9	Sudbury 199 Larch Street Suite 801 P3E 5R1	Toronto 47 Sheppard Avenue East Suite 505 M2N 7E7

Cancer PET Registry Study (Attachment 2)

Indications:

- **New Indication Added** - Potentially resectable non-small cell lung cancer
- **New Indication Added** – Evaluation of residual masses following chemotherapy in patients with potentially curative Hodgkin’s lymphoma or non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma; assessment of response to chemotherapy in stage IA-IIA, non-bulky classical Hodgkin’s lymphoma
- A solitary pulmonary nodule which may be cancer and suitable for surgical resection
- Suspected recurrent thyroid, colorectal, or germ cell cancer with elevated biomarker but negative MRI or CT findings

Cardiac PET Registry study (CADRE) (Attachment 3)

Indication:

- Pre-revascularization myocardial viability assessment for patients with severe left ventricular dysfunction

Ontario PET Access Program (Attachment 4)

- A review process established by the MOHLTC to assess applications for PET scans for patients **not** eligible for the clinical trials or registry studies.

Physicians may make a referral to one of the active clinical trials, or 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.

***Please Note:** Before requesting a PET scan under the Ontario PET Access Program, it is advisable for physicians to first review the information on the clinical trials (Attachment 1) and registries (Attachment 2 & 3). If eligible, the patient should be offered enrolment in one of the clinical studies or registry studies. The Ontario PET Access Program should only be considered for patients who do **not** meet the criteria for any of the clinical trials or registry studies.*

NEW – Northern Health Travel Grant Program

Effective October 1, 2007, patients residing in Northern Ontario who travel to Southern Ontario for a PET scan as a result of enrolment in the Ontario-funded PET evaluation/program are eligible for the Northern Health Travel Grant.

Patients wishing to apply for the Northern Health Travel Grant for a PET scan must:

- Have possession of a valid Ontario Health Card on the date of the scheduled PET scan and meet all other eligibility criteria;
- Be enrolled in one of the ministry-funded FDG-PET evaluation studies or registry that require travel from Northern Ontario to one of the ministry-funded PET imaging centres to receive a PET scan;
- Have a signed form letter from the coordinator of the PET study or PET registry at the enrolment hospital, verifying enrolment in a ministry-funded study.
- Complete the Northern Health Travel Grant application form and submit with it the above signed verification letter to one of the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care offices listed on the application form.

To obtain additional details on the Northern Health Travel Grant program for PET and access a copy of the application form, please visit: <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/ohip/northern.html>

NEW - Toll Free Ontario PET Information Line

Should referring physicians have any questions relating to the referral of patients to any of the ministry-funded PET evaluation studies or the Ontario PET Access program, please call the toll free Ontario PET Info Line:

1-877-4PET-411 (1-877-473-8411)