

NEWS RELEASE

**HAMILTON HEALTH SCIENCES DISCLOSES ISSUE WITH A TYPE OF  
RADIATION THERAPY AT THE JURAVINSKI CANCER CENTRE**

*25 Patients May Not Have Received Treatment As Intended*

**NEWS**

January 2, 2019

Some patients treated for cervical cancer at Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) in 2017 and 2018 may not have received the intended treatment when a very specific form of radiation therapy was administered.

This follows the discovery of an issue with the equipment used to deliver brachytherapy or BT, at the Juravinski Cancer Centre (JCC). The incorrect length of a “guide tube” in the BT equipment means that radiation may not have been delivered on the exact point where it was intended.

A total of 25 patients with cervical cancer who received BT in 2017 or 2018 have been informed of the issue. JCC staff and physicians have met with all women who may have been affected and put in place care plans to monitor them closely over the coming weeks.

No other current or former patient who received any form of radiation therapy at the JCC is affected by this issue.

The BT equipment has been replaced and the use of this specific therapy to treat cervical cancer at the JCC has been paused. External experts will conduct a review of the radiation therapy program at HHS.

HHS informed Cancer Care Ontario and the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network of this issue.

**QUOTES**

“We have apologized to all the patients regarding this matter. We also understand the anxiety this likely causes them and their families. Our physicians, nurses and the other members of our teams at the JCC, and across HHS, care deeply about our patients and are distraught that patients might be affected. We are working diligently to ensure the integrity of our services moving forward.”

— Rob Maclsaac, President and Chief Executive Officer, Hamilton Health Sciences

“We have informed all patients involved in this matter and apologized to them and their families. We deeply regret that this occurred. Everyone at the JCC is committed to providing treatment that is effective and safe. We will evaluate our processes thoroughly and remedy any gaps in our care.”

— Dr. Ralph Meyer, Vice President, Oncology and Palliative Care and Regional Vice President, Cancer Care Ontario

### QUICK FACTS

- Only women who received BT at the JCC in 2017 or 2018 to treat cervical cancer may be affected, a total of 25 patients.
- The issue does not affect any other patient.

### LEARN MORE

- How [radiation therapy works](#)
- [Questions and Answers](#) about the BT issue at the JCC

### CONTACT INFO

Lillian Badzioch  
Communications and Public Affairs  
Hamilton Health Sciences  
905-730-1836