



**GAUTENG PROVINCE**  
HEALTH  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**TO: All Media**

**ATT: News Editors, Health Reporters**

**For immediate release**

**Thursday, 05 March 2020**

### **NEW LINEAR ACCELERATOR MACHINES TO DECREASE WAITING TIMES FOR CANCER PATIENTS**

The Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (CMJAH)'s two Linear Accelerator machines which were recently procured have impacted positively to 71 cancer patients who were treated during the period of December 2019 to February 2020.

These new machines will also assist in terms of reducing the waiting list for cancer patients at CMJAH.

The two Linear Accelerator machines were procured at the value of R105 million. The replacement of the machines started on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019. They were commissioned in September 2019 till November 2019. Staff has undergone intensive training programme to familiarise them with the new and state of the art technology.

As part of improving quality healthcare, the hospital has also procured two additional cancer machines to replace old machines at the value of R52 million and are expected to be delivered in the second week of March 2020.

Furthermore, the following measures have been put place to improve cancer treatment at CMJAH:

- Conducting awareness workshops/meetings for CMJAH and Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital cluster hospital with regards to referral processes and the requirements.
- The hospital is currently recruiting even outside the country taking into consideration that Radiation oncology is a scarce skill in the country.
- The hospital has extended working hours from 07h30 -16h00 to 07h00- 20h00 with effect from 02 March 2020.
- CMJAH has collaborated with Steve Biko Academic Hospital to accommodate their cancer patients.
- CMJAH is offering sessional hours to private practitioners.
- Overtime is being strategically utilised to compliment staff shortage.
- CMJAH has collaborated with Klerksorp Hospital to take some of the cervical cancer patients to address the backlog as of March 2020. This will see almost 80 patients being treated by July 2020.

Currently the number of patients waiting for radiation and chemotherapy treatment and is as follows:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number of patients waiting for treatment – (Radiation Oncology)</b>	<b>Number of patients waiting for treatment – (Medical Oncology)</b>	<b>Waiting times per category – (Radiation Oncology)</b>	<b>Waiting times per category – (Medical Oncology)</b>
<b>Breast</b>	113		7 months	
<b>Gynecological cancer</b>	125		4-6 months	
<b>Head and Neck</b>	25		3 months	

<b>Prostate</b>	450 + (many are on hormonal treatment)		6 weeks	
<b>Medical Oncology</b>		100		3-4weeks

**Ends/**

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