

Request for Information (RFI)

For

External Engagement for the Assessment of Annual Cancer System Performance Indicators

RFI# RI460-2019-01

Issue RFI:	Thursday January 10, 2019
Webinar Session (Recording will be posted):	Monday January 21, 2019 from 1:00-2:00pm (ET)
Deadline for Receipt of Proponent questions:	Friday January 25, 2019 no later than 5:00pm (ET)
Response to Proponent questions (and Addendum if required):	Tuesday January 29, 2019 (ET)
Deadline for receipt of Declaration of Interest form, including Section 1.4:	Monday February 4th, 2019 no later than 3:00pm ET (Toronto Local time)

THIS IS A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) ONLY. This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes – it does not constitute a Request for Proposal (RFP) or a promise to issue an RFP in the future. This request for information does not commit the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (the Partnership) to contract for any supply or service whatsoever. Further, the Partnership is not at this time seeking Proposals and will not accept unsolicited Proposals. Vendors (Proponent) are advised that the Partnership will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in response to this RFI; all costs associated with responding to this RFI will be solely at the Proponents) expense. Not responding to this RFI does not preclude participation in any future RFP, if any is issued. If a solicitation is released, it will be synopsised on the Partnership’s website, MERX (www.merx.com), and Biddingo. It is the responsibility of the potential Proponents to monitor these sites for additional information pertaining to this RFI.

About the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer

As the steward of the Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control (the Strategy) the Partnership works to implement the Strategy to reduce the burden of cancer on Canadians. The partner network – cancer agencies, health system leaders and experts, and people affected by cancer – brings a wide variety of expertise to every aspect of our work. After 10 years of collaboration, we are accelerating work that improves the effectiveness and efficiency of the cancer control system, aligning shared priorities and mobilizing positive change across the cancer continuum. The Partnership continues to support the work of the collective cancer community in achieving our shared 30-year goals: a future in which fewer people get cancer, fewer die from cancer and those living with the disease have a better quality of life. The Partnership was created by the federal government in 2006 to move the Strategy into action and receives ongoing funding from Health Canada to continue supporting partners from across Canada. Visit www.partnershipagainstcancer.ca.

A key component of the Partnership’s work is the reporting of standardized performance indicators at the system level (pan-Canadian, by jurisdiction and other high-level demographic categories) through the System Performance Initiative. To achieve this, the System Performance Initiative works collaboratively with stakeholders across Canada to identify priority areas of the cancer control continuum, develop indicators that measure how well Canada is doing on these priorities, and collect standardized data and report it in knowledge products like system performance reports. To date, we have published 18 system performance reports including over 80 indicators. Of these, about 30 system performance indicators are reported on an annual basis and encompass the entire cancer control continuum – from prevention and screening, through to treatment and end-of-life care, and including long-term outcomes. This data informs provincial cancer agencies, clinicians, policy-makers and researchers about the state of cancer control across the country, areas where progress has been made and opportunities for quality improvements. For more information on past System Performance reports and existing indicators, please visit <https://www.systemperformance.ca/>.

1.1 Indicator Refresh Background

An initial suite of 17 annual system performance indicators was created in 2009, following extensive consultations with partners and subject matter experts through a modified Delphi method. This set of indicators has organically evolved – some have been added, modified or replaced altogether – resulting in the current 30 indicators distributed across the cancer control continuum. While individual metrics have been assessed and modified on a case by

case basis in the past 10 years, there is now a pressing need to conduct a comprehensive and systematic assessment of these indicators as a cohesive set, to ensure they are relevant, current, and aligned with national priorities for cancer control. Therefore, **the Partnership is conducting a refresh of its annual system performance indicators**, which includes an assessment of existing metrics and development of a new set of indicators that are aligned with the new Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control (CSCC), in order to monitor progress made against the Strategy over time. In addition to alignment with the CSCC's priorities, the new set of actionable indicators should point to areas of the cancer system that can lead to change (i.e., tipping points in the system) and for which mechanisms to execute such change are well-known. Equally important is the buy-in from stakeholders across the country, so they promote the dissemination and use of this new suite of indicators.

To achieve this, the System Performance initiative has developed a priority-driven conceptual framework, which is intended to guide the selection of the new balanced set of system performance metrics. The execution of this framework will start in the summer of 2019 by means of a modified deliberative engagement approach, which encompasses three key milestones:

1. Identify priority areas in the cancer system that are primed for action (i.e., tipping points in the system)
2. Select potential system performance indicators that are best suited for assessing those priority areas by means of iterative discussions and scoring of indicators.
3. Reach consensus on a balanced set of system performance indicators to report on in the future

Given the iterative nature of this priority-driven conceptual framework, we require wide engagement with external partners across the country throughout the three milestones of the project. Given our diverse audience and short timeline, we plan to use a primarily online engagement approach. Many of the stakeholders who will be involved in consultations already hold a relationship with the Partnership, and include clinical experts, researchers, health care administrators, patient and family representatives, among others.

1.2 Purpose of the RFI

The System Performance Initiative requires support to:

- a) Develop a strategy for effective partner engagement in all key milestones of the Indicator Refresh

- b) Propose, supply and implement online engagement tools (and other tools, if applicable) to support this work
- c) Facilitate the execution of this engagement approach from start to finish

The Partnership is looking to determine interest and receive information from Proponents in providing the following:

- Development of an effective strategy to engage various types/groups of external partners over several months and in different stages, as outlined in the priority-driven conceptual framework (section 1.1)
 - Identify and provide tools to support online engagement of partners (and limited face-to-face engagement, if applicable) from start to finish
 - Facilitate online engagement of partners (and limited face-to-face engagement, if applicable)
 - Advice and provide on best data collection and analysis methodologies to inform the identification of a final set of indicators

Considerations

- The 3 or 4 month indicator refresh is planned to start in early summer 2019 and finish by the end of September.
- We are looking for an integrated engagement strategy that relies primarily on online methods, and is supplemented by other techniques, when appropriate.
- The iterative, and collaborative indicator discussion will need to be framed to ensure informed, stakeholder input across clear, linked milestones including:
 1. setting priority areas,
 2. assessing/discussing potential indicators against specific criteria,
 3. building a consensus-based final set of indicators framed against the context of the CSCC.
- The Partnership has already identified (or holds a relationship with) most of the key partners that will be invited to participate in this project. There will not be an engagement of the general public for this effort.

Background documents have been compiled on the System Performance Indicator Refresh to inform a response to this RFI:

Appendix A: Declaration of Interest form

Appendix B: List of annual system performance indicators

This RFI is being used to gauge interest and to support the development of a future Request for Proposals (RFP). More information about this project will be provided during the information webinar on January 21, 2019. The details are stated below.

1.3 RFI Timeline

A signed Declaration of Interest form (Appendix A) must be received by **Monday February 4th, 2019, (including Section 1.4) as indicated below**. Submissions can be made by email to procurement@partnershipagainstcancer.ca.

Task	Date
Issue RFI:	Thursday January 10, 2019
Webinar Session (Recording will be posted):	Monday January 21, 2019 from 1:00-2:00pm (ET)
Deadline for Receipt of Proponent questions	Friday January 25, 2019 no later than 5:00pm ET
Response to Proponent questions (and Addendum, if required):	Tuesday January 29, 2019
Deadline for receipt of Appendix A - Declaration of Interest form, including Section 1.4:	Monday February 4th, 2019 no later than 3:00pm ET (Toronto Local time)

**Submissions received after the deadline will not be accepted.*

**Webinar Session*

The Partnership will hold a webinar session on Monday January 21st, 2019 from 1 to 2 p.m. ET. This webinar is intended to provide Proponents with an opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification on any point in the RFI. For that reason, it is in the Proponent's interest to read the RFI thoroughly, prior to this webinar. Please email the procurement@partnershipagainstcancer.ca to request Skype details for this session. This session will be recorded.

1.4 Requested Information

Any and all Proponents may respond to this RFI. All Proponents must identify the Organization they represent and provide a brief explanation of their interest in developing and executing an effective partner engagement strategy for the System Performance Indicator Refresh. A Declaration of Interest form (Appendix A), containing the following information must be submitted by the Deadline indicated above, in Section 1.3.

- a) Organization's Experience in similar projects that involve the development of performance metrics in the health care sector
- b) Organization's Qualifications in online and face-to-face discussions/engagement
- c) Cost estimates and high-level timelines to complete work described in Section 1.2

d) Work Examples and/or References from similar projects

1.5 Questions and Clarifications

Any questions or clarifications regarding this RFI should be addressed in writing by e-mail to procurement@partnershipagainstcancer.ca

1.6 Resulting Procurement

The Partnership reserves the right to not issue an RFP to procure said services as a result of it issuing this RFI. Responding to this RFI is for solicitation of information only. Failure to respond to this RFI does not preclude subsequent participation in any procurement process developed as a result of this RFI. It must be clearly understood that no business will be awarded to any Proponent out of this RFI.

1.7 Incurring Costs

The Partnership will not be responsible in any manner for any costs incurred by any Proponent to this RFI as a result of responding to this RFI. All cost in the preparation, presentation and demonstration will be for the account of the Proponent.

1.8 Confidentiality

The information exchanged will be treated as confidential unless the information is already in the public domain.

Appendix A: Declaration of Interest Page

Name of company: _____

Company registration/GST number: _____

Address of company:

Address:

Company's website (if applicable): _____

Contact person:

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Telephone number: _____

Fax number: _____

Declaration:

The information supplied in this document is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and accurately reflects the capability of:

Company Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

This RFI is signed in my capacity as: _____

Appendix B: List of Annual System Performance Indicators

Indicator	Indicator definition	Data Source
Prevention		
Smoking prevalence	Percentage of population (aged ≥ 12) reporting daily or occasional smoking	Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)
HPV vaccination	Percentage of girls who receive a full course of HPV vaccination from school-based HPV vaccination programs	Provincial/territorial immunization programs
Screening		
Cervical cancer screening	Percentage of women (aged 25 to 69) reporting at least one Pap test in the last three years	CCHS
Breast cancer screening	Percentage of women (aged 50 to 69) reporting a screening mammogram in the last two years	CCHS
	Invasive breast cancer detection rate among women aged 50-69	Provincial breast cancer screening programs
Colorectal cancer screening	Percentage of population (aged 50 to 74) reporting a screening fecal test in the last two years and/or screening sigmoidoscopy/colonoscopy in the last five years	CCHS
Diagnosis		
Breast cancer diagnosis wait time	Median and 90 th percentile wait times for resolution of abnormal breast screen without tissue biopsy for women (aged 50 to 69)	Provincial breast cancer screening programs
	Median and 90 th percentile wait times for resolution of abnormal breast screen through tissue biopsy for women (aged 50 to 69)	Provincial breast cancer screening programs
Colorectal cancer diagnosis wait time	Median and 90 th percentile wait times from abnormal fecal test to follow-up colonoscopy	National Colorectal Cancer Screening Network
Treatment		

Indicator	Indicator definition	Data Source
Removal and examination of 12 or more lymph nodes in colon resections	Percentage of colon resections with 12 or more lymph nodes removed and examined	Provincial Cancer Agencies and Programs (PCAs)
Breast cancer resections	Percentage of breast cancer resections that are breast-conserving surgery	Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)
	Percentage of breast cancer resections that are mastectomies	CIHI
Pre-operative radiation therapy for Stage II or III rectal cancer patients	Percentage of stage II or III rectal cancer patients who received radiation therapy before surgery	PCAs
Post-operative chemotherapy for Stage II or IIIA NSCLC patients	Percentage of stage II or IIIA non-small cell lung cancer patients who received chemotherapy following surgical resection	PCAs
Post-operative chemotherapy for Stage III colon cancer patients	Percentage of stage III colon cancer patients receiving chemotherapy following surgical resection	PCAs
Person-centred care		
Screening for distress	Percentage of cancer patients (surveys) with low, moderate or high levels of symptoms (pain, fatigue, anxiety or depression)	Patient Reported Outcomes partners (PRO partners)
	Current state of Patient-Reported Outcome Initiative implementation	PRO partners
Place of death	Percentage of cancer patient deaths	Vital Statistics Death database, Statistics Canada *CIHI is another source for hospital deaths
Research		
Adult clinical trial participation	Ratio of adult patients enrolled in clinical trials to number of incident cases	PCAs, Canadian Cancer Statistics (CCS)
Appropriateness		

Indicator	Indicator definition	Data Source
Intensive Care Unit (ICU) use in the last two weeks of life	Percentage of cancer patients admitted to, and dying in, an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in the last 14 days of life	CIHI
Breast cancer screening outside guidelines	Percentage of screening mammograms performed within and outside of guideline-recommended age groups (50-74 years)	CCHS
Mastectomies performed as day surgery	Percentage of breast cancer mastectomies done as day surgery	CIHI
Fractionation of palliative radiation therapy for bone metastases	Percentage of cancer patients receiving more than one fraction of palliative radiation therapy to the bone	PCAs
Admissions to an Intensive Care Unit in the last 14 days of life	Percentage of adult cancer patients who were admitted to an intensive care unit (ICU) in the last 14 days of life and died (with a cancer diagnosis) in an acute-care hospital	CIHI, Discharge Abstract Database (DAD)
Long-term outcomes		
Incidence	Age-standardized incidence rates for cancer	Canadian Cancer Registry (CCR)
Stage-specific incidence	Stage-specific incidence rates	PCAs
Mortality	Age-standardized incidence rates for cancer	CCR, Vital Stats