**Backgrounder**

The Mississauga Halton/Central West (MHCW) Regional Cancer Program has implemented a new Brachytherapy program at The Carlo Fidani Peel Regional Cancer Centre. This will allow for a full range of radiation treatment options, close to home for patients, and allows for the best outcomes with the fewest side-effects.

As HDR brachytherapy allows doctors to safely apply an increased dose of radiation specifically to the tumor, there are several significant benefits for patients:

- Patients treated on an out-patient rather than in-patient basis, which removes hospital admission.
- Radiation being applied directly to, or close to the tumour allows an increased dose to be given to the tumour. This leads to a higher chance of eradicating the tumour while minimizing damage to surrounding tissues and organs.
- Treatment time is in the range of minutes, with brachytherapy procedures taking in total, only a few hours.

The brachytherapy suite at The Carlo Fidani Peel Regional Cancer Centre will first offer the most advanced High-Dose-Rate treatment for skin cancer patients. The new program also supports research, like the HDR treatment for cervical, endometrial, prostate and breast cancer that is currently in development at The Carlo Fidani Peel Regional Cancer Centre.

**Other Important Facts:**

- The new Brachytherapy Suite boasts the largest treatment room in the province, with over 700 square feet of space. The Suite has full operating room capabilities to allow the team to practice all forms of Brachytherapy treatment.
- The Suite is built completely independent of the Cancer Centre, with dedicated foundations, structural walls and a structural ceiling.
- The Suite boasts the most up-to-date and state-of-the-art equipment dedicated to brachytherapy treatment.