



Where caring is the best medicine
for kids with cancer.

PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY GROUP OF ONTARIO NETWORKED INFORMATION SYSTEM (POGONIS)

History

When POGO was founded in 1983, there was no standardized, provincial registry on pediatric cancer in Ontario. POGO's Medical Director, Dr. Mark Greenberg, identified the development of a childhood cancer registry and database as a top priority and this has evolved into what is now known as the Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario Networked Information System (POGONIS). Since 1985, the five specialized pediatric cancer centres have used a common system for the classification and mutual definition of childhood cancer and regularly input data into POGONIS. The data captured by POGONIS includes the demographic, diagnosis and key treatment information for all cases of childhood cancer in Ontario. Using POGONIS, the five centres can track vital statistics regarding patients and service output. In 1997 the database was expanded to accommodate the tracking of late effects and AfterCare services through the POGO AfterCare Clinics.

Value

The only database of its kind in Canada, POGONIS has become a valuable tool for Ontario that is used across Canada and abroad. The richness of POGONIS data supports POGO and its partners in planning for childhood cancer control in Ontario and is an integral resource for the work of the POGO Research Unit.

POGONIS is designed to monitor:

- The incidence and prevalence of childhood cancer
- The demand for care and workload of pediatric oncology programs
- The nature and specifics of treatment
- Patient outcomes
- Long-term effects of childhood cancer and its treatment



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Purpose

POGONIS provides reliable and validated data that are used to:

- Make precise estimates of the incidence of childhood cancer in Ontario
- Plan new programs in response to research findings
- Support multiple research projects
- Conduct population-based research
- Make accurate projections of the number of children to be treated in the future
- Forecast future staffing requirements
- Provide a clear understanding of where the children live in relation to where they are treated, in order to facilitate the strategic location of treatment facilities

Partners

- The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto
- Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto
- McMaster Children's Hospital, Hamilton Health Sciences, Hamilton
- Children's Hospital, London Health Sciences Centre, London
- Kingston General Hospital/Kingston Regional Cancer Centre, Kingston
- Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario /Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre, Ottawa

News

On November 1, 2005, POGO received a provincial designation as a 45.1 entity within the Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA). This designation allows for the execution of research for the purposes of planning statistical information analysis, the evaluation of resource allocation and health system planning, including the delivery of services. This designation now enables POGO and POGONIS to link with other databases within the province, greatly augmenting POGO's research capacity.

Media Contact

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