



**Alberta Cancer  
Board**

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ALBERTA CANCER  
FOUNDATION

November 1, 2006

## Expanded Services for Lymphedema Patients

The Alberta Cancer Board is pleased to have reached an agreement with Calgary Lymphedema Rehabilitation Services to provide treatment without fee to cancer patients in Southern Alberta, beginning Tuesday, November 7, 2006.

The agreement offers an expanded range of services to lymphedema sufferers. The Alberta Cancer Board's commitment includes provision of certain occupational therapy and physiotherapy services as well as some supplies, such as bandages and padding, which are not already covered by Aids to Daily Living. The list of physicians able to refer has also been lengthened to allow even easier access and now includes surgeons at the Calgary Health Region. It is anticipated that most patients will need fewer than ten treatment visits, but there is no limit on the number of treatments to patients who meet the medical criteria.

Patients will need a referral from their oncologist or surgeon to access treatment. Those people who do not have access to either physician should consult their family doctors.

Lymphedema is a swelling of parts of the body caused when the lymphatic system can't efficiently drain fluids from tissues. Lymphedema is not cancer and has a number of causes, but the condition is experienced by a small number of patients who have undergone surgery and radiation for cancers such as prostate, breast and melanoma.

Calgary Lymphedema Rehabilitation Services is already a valued associate of the Alberta Cancer Board. Under contract, the clinic provides patients with a briefing on lymphedema and an initial assessment that includes a physical exam, treatment recommendations, education, and follow-up with the referring physicians. The expanded agreement is in effect until December 31, 2007. The Alberta Cancer Board expects to have a long term solution in place at that time.