

# Radiotherapy Development Plan for the Next Decade (RT-2030)

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*Plano de Desenvolvimento da Radioterapia para a Próxima Década (RT-2030)*

Plan de Desarrollo de la Radioterapia para la Próxima Década (RT-2030)

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The document titled “Radiotherapy Development Plan for the Next Decade (RT-2030)”<sup>1</sup>, elaborated by the Brazilian Society of Radiotherapy (SBRT) with technical supervision by *Fundação Dom Cabral*, represents a significant strategic effort to design the future actions of Radiotherapy in Brazil. It aims to transform the practice of Radiotherapy in the country, looking up to 2030, to ensure the Brazilian population has full high-quality access to Radiotherapy services.

The relevance of the plan is evident especially considering its scope and multidisciplinary approach. Given that Radiotherapy is key in treating several types of cancer, the plan presents fundamental issues, such as technological innovation, clinical challenges and improvement opportunities. The SBRT initiative, supported by a broad set of collaborators including equipment manufacturers, governmental institutions like the Ministry of Health and the National Nuclear Energy Commission, medical societies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), logistic and maintenance companies and philanthropic institutions, reflects a collaborative commitment to facing the current and future challenges of Radiotherapy.

The document was structured in seven groups including themes such as: diagnosis, infrastructure, management and operation, norms and regulations, economic-financial, human resources and, finally, technology. Two main tools were used to help with the organization and coherence of ideas. To identify the descriptors or problem situations of each group, the problem tree methodology was applied. To propose possible solutions, an adaptation of the tool 5W3H was used.

Both the problem tree and the 5W3H helped support the discussions. Based on the discussions and main goal of the project, what needs to be done so the whole Brazilian population until 2030 has access to quality Radiotherapy

service according to their needs, each group identified research questions.

The plan is structured in various sections that address key aspects of Radiotherapy:

**Radiotherapy Treatment:** The plan starts with an overview of the radiotherapy treatment, reviewing the current techniques and highlighting the importance of continuously advancing the cancer treatment.

**Management and Regulation:** Examines management and regulation practices of the Radiotherapy service, discussing the need for an efficient governance and implementation of regulatory policies that ensure the quality and safety of treatments.

**Current situation and Projections:** Offers a detailed analysis of the scenario of cancer cases and radiotherapy equipment in Brazil, with data from 2018 and projections for 2030, evidencing the existing gaps and future needs.

**Technology and Radiotherapy:** Addresses the technological innovations and how they can be integrated to improve the effectiveness of treatments. This section includes discussions about new equipment and emerging techniques.

**Radiotherapy Professionals:** Assesses the current scenario of professionals that act in the field and projects the future needs, highlighting the importance of education and continuous training to cope with the increasing demand and new technologies.

**Economic and financial aspects:** Discusses the economic and financial aspects of the Radiotherapy service, including optimization of resources and financial sustainability of the services offered.

The scope and potential impact of these proposals should be highlighted upon reading this document. The multidisciplinary approach is a broadly discussed topic, causing reflection on the holistic understanding of the needs of the field. The proposition of including

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several stakeholders in the elaboration of the plan ensures the solutions are practical and aligned to each area's reality, since Radiotherapy involves several clinical and logistical wards, for instance. However, the viability of implementing all the proposals until 2030 may be challenging, considering budget limitations and the need for changing the existing infrastructure. The recommendations, as robust as they are, should be followed by a detailed action plan and periodic assessments to ensure effective execution of strategies.

The robustness of evidence presented in the RT-2030 is grounded in the quality of the data and scientific references. The clarity of the recommendations is guaranteed by their specificity, alignment with the identified needs and the form of presentation. A critical assessment of these dimensions will help ensure the plan is effective and viable in promoting the development of Radiotherapy in Brazil.

Innovations and advances proposed by this document represent an important milestone for the evolution of Radiotherapy in Brazil.

The introduction of new technologies, customization of treatments, upgrade of professional training and improvement of management and regulation are significant steps to transform the practice and ensure that every Brazilians have access to high quality treatment. Therefore, this review suggests the elaboration of studies that address the economic analysis of new technologies to facilitate the implementation of the proposals. Such approach demonstrates a serious commitment to the evolution of the field and continuous improvement of care with the patients.

It is a significant contribution for the field of Radiotherapy in Brazil. Its comprehensive and strategic analysis is crucial for tackling the emerging challenges and improving the quality of services. Tackling these challenges will require a collaborative and flexible perspective, in addition to a continuous commitment from all the stakeholders to overcome obstacles and reach the proposed goals.

The contributions of this document are extensive and have the potential to significantly transform the Radiotherapy practice in Brazil. With technological advances, improvements in management and regulation, training of professionals and a collaborative approach, the plan establishes a solid foundation for the future of Radiotherapy, aiming at more equal access and superior treatment quality for every patient. This document review is key to offer a critical assessment of the

proposals and foster a broader debate on the priorities and future strategies in Radiotherapy. By analyzing the recommendations and potential impact of the plan, this review offers valuable insights for professionals in the area, researchers, health managers, and public health policy makers.

## REFERENCE

1. Sociedade Brasileira de Radioterapia, Fundação Dom Cabral. RT-2030: plano de desenvolvimento da radioterapia para a Próxima Década [Internet]. São Paulo: SBRT; [2019]. [acesso 2024 ago 23]. Disponível em: <https://sbradioterapia.com.br/rt2030/>

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