

AUSTIN HEALTH, VICTORIAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

HPG Funding has been instrumental in providing patient access to modern up-to-date radiation oncology equipment.

Modern equipment allows for advanced techniques aimed at improving cure and reduced morbidity.

The quarantining of HPG Funding, rather than having this money as part of general revenue is a critical enabler for equipment renewal.

Some current concerns with HPG reimbursement are as follows:

- The amount of HPG for linac replacement has not kept in line with the cost of current equipment replacement.
- The number of services in a machine lifetime is not reflective of machine use. E.g. stereotactic procedures provide fewer billable 'services' and an increased requirement for QA both of which wear the machines out at a faster pace.
- There is an anomaly in HPG payments for SRS treatments where there is no HPG payments attached to the billable MBS code.