



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

January 13, 2026

23 January 16, 2026



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

EDWARD YEN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Los Angeles County
Board of Supervisors

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Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF THE BRAVOS HIGH DOSE RATE
AFTERLOADER FOR LOS ANGELES GENERAL MEDICAL CENTER
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 1) FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 (3 VOTES)**

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SUBJECT

Authorize the Director of the Internal Services Department (ISD), as the Los Angeles County (LA County) Purchasing Agent, to proceed with the sole source acquisition of the Bravos High Dose Rate (HDR) Afterloader for the Department of Health Services' (DHS) Los Angeles General Medical Center (LA General).

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

Authorize the Director of ISD, as LA County's Purchasing Agent, to proceed with the sole source acquisition of the Bravos HDR Afterloader from Varian Medical Systems, Inc. (Varian) for LA General, with an estimated cost of \$450,000.

*"To advance the health of our patient,
and our communities by providing
extraordinary care"*



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PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended action will authorize ISD, as LA County's Purchasing Agent, to proceed with the sole source acquisition of the Bravos HDR Afterloader from Varian for LA General. This acquisition will allow LA General to replace the current end-of-life Varian HDR unit.

The Bravos HDR Afterloader is a computer-controlled medical device that delivers targeted internal radiation therapy (brachytherapy) for cancer treatment. Trained radiation oncology physicians use the HDR to help guide radioactive source directly into or next to a tumor.

LA General is a center of excellence for Radiation Oncology treatments and is the only facility providing this care within the DHS network. The existing HDR has been in use since 2008 and will reach End-of-Service Life on December 31, 2025. After this date, the contracted vendor and third-party companies will be unable to service the unit or deliver the high-strength radioactive source, typically Iridium-192, required for patient cancer treatments. This will result in the DHS' inability to treat various cancers, including gynecological (cervix, uterus, vagina) and prostate cancers.

LA General aims to provide world-class care to everyone regardless of income and background. LA General is the premier teaching and safety-net hospital serving as a crucial resource for the disenfranchised and low-income populations of LA County. As the only facility within the DHS network providing radiation oncology services, the purchase of the Bravos HDR Afterloader will help with continued access to cancer treatments, improve healthcare outcomes, reduce the logistical and financial burden of treatment, and help address health disparities for our patients.

HDR brachytherapy is a highly effective treatment for cancers that disproportionately affect Hispanic populations, such as cervical cancer. Studies show that Hispanic women receive brachytherapy for cervical cancer at lower rates, indicating a significant care disparity that an HDR could help close.

For certain cancers, including high-risk prostate cancer, HDR brachytherapy when used in combination with external beam radiation, has been shown to offer better cancer control rates than external beam radiation alone. HDR brachytherapy helps reduce morbidity and improved quality of life due to the targeted precision in the delivery of radiation directly to the tumor while minimizing exposure to surrounding healthy tissue. This can lead to fewer side effects and a better quality of life during and after treatment.

HDR brachytherapy requires fewer and shorter sessions compared to conventional external beam radiation therapy. This is a major advantage for low-income patients who may lack paid sick leave, face childcare challenges, or have unreliable transportation. Shorter treatment courses mean less time away from work and fewer trips to the hospital. Older brachytherapy technology would require a hospital stay. The new HDR brachytherapy cancer treatment strategies are often performed on an outpatient basis, which helps reduce inpatient costs and allows patients to return home the same day.

Low-income communities of LA County often face barriers to care due to socioeconomic factors, insurance issues (including Medicaid or no insurance), and language barriers. Providing advanced HDR brachytherapy at LA General can help ensure that patients receive the standard of care without needing to go to distant, and often more expensive, out-of-network facilities. This will also help address disparities in access to radiation therapy that can lead to significant treatment delays, which negatively impact survival.

DHS plans to purchase the proprietary Varian Bravos HDR Afterloader for LA General. The Radiation Therapy department's infrastructure is currently built for Varian products. The Varian Bravos HDR Afterloader intermembers with existing Varian software that is necessary for planning

the targeted radiation treatments. This includes the Varian ARIA electronic medical records system and the Eclipse planning systems. The department considered systems offered by Elekta, Eckert & Ziegler. However, this would require replacing other parts of the radiation therapy framework at significant additional costs.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This recommendation supports North Star 1 – A “Healthy Individuals and Families” and North Star 3 – G “Internal Controls and Processes” of the LA County’s Strategic Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The estimated acquisition cost for the Bravos HDR Afterloader is approximately \$450,000. The estimated acquisition cost includes the equipment, accessories, on-site training, freight, tax, and a one-year manufacturer’s warranty. Funding is included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Final Adopted Budget, and continued funding associated with ongoing maintenance costs will be requested in future fiscal years, as necessary. There is no net County cost impact associated with the recommendation.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

On October 16, 2001, the Board approved the classification categories for fixed assets and new requirements for capital asset acquisitions requiring Board approvals for LA County departments to acquire or finance equipment with a unit cost of \$250,000 or greater prior to submitting their requisition to ISD.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

The acquisition of equipment falls under the statutory authority of the LA County Purchasing Agent and will be accomplished in accordance with LA County’s purchasing policies and procedures for sole source purchases.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of the recommendation will ensure that the DHS will be able to continue providing patients with effective, convenient, and cost-efficient care for cancers common to our patient population.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

1/13/2026

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christina R. Ghaly".

Christina R. Ghaly, M.D.

Director

CRG:jc

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Internal Services Department