

Referral for radiotherapy to hospitals outside of the Oxford Sarcoma Centre

Principles

This document describes arrangements for ‘shared care’ whereby patients with sarcoma managed at the Oxford Sarcoma Centre may receive their radiotherapy at hospitals outside of Oxford.

Distinction is made between radiotherapy for bone and for soft tissue sarcomas; between pre operative, post operative, definitive and palliative radiotherapy; and between children, teenagers and young adults. The arrangements are consistent with appendix 2 in the sarcoma service specification.

Patients requiring radiotherapy are treated at Oxford Sarcoma Centre or other designated Centres. The decision is made by the sarcoma team taking into account the patient’s wishes, the referral is made to a named oncologist at a centre closer to home. The indications for radiotherapy for soft tissue sarcoma are varied. These include pre operative, post operative, definitive and palliative radiotherapy. Some patients will be considered for referral for proton beam therapy. Expert knowledge of the disease and the individual clinical setting can ensure effective treatment, minimisation of toxicity, and avoidance of futile or unnecessary treatments.

When patients are treated outside the Oxford Sarcoma Centre, close ongoing communication between oncologists and surgeon is required. Close coordination is required between oncologist and surgeon especially when pre-operative radiotherapy is used. All treatment protocols used will be those agreed by the sarcoma centres. Additional considerations may be relevant to certain soft tissue sarcomas presenting to site specialised MDTs. These will be found in the appropriate pathway documents.

The information given to the accepting oncologist includes:

- a referral letter outlining the clinical background, relevant co-morbidity, recommendations on chemotherapy regimen, recommendations for response assessment
- MDT discussion confirming treatment plan

- histology report
- imaging reports – primary sites and staging
- images of primary site and any metastatic disease
- operation note
- a contact email and phone number for the referring centre oncologist

The treating oncologist is asked to provide details of the treatment delivered and either refer back to the centre for follow up or, if requested, undertake part or all of follow up themselves, copying the centre into correspondence.

Criteria for referral for radiotherapy outside of the sarcoma centre:

- agreement from the SAG, that the receiving department is authorised to treat sarcoma patients
- a named consultant oncologist with experience of radiotherapy for sarcoma, nominated by the sarcoma MDT or children’s cancer PTC
- the named consultant oncologist should be named as an extended member of a sarcoma MDT (designated practitioner)
- there should be agreement from the consultant oncologist’s clinical director to provide this service
- the named designated practitioner should have specified time in their job plans for the care of patients including time worked in a designated department
- the named designated practitioner should deliver radiotherapy in accordance with national guidelines and following recommendation from the sarcoma MDT
- Designated practitioners will be expected to participate directly in the sarcoma MDT meetings either on a regular basis or for case-by-case discussion
- Designated practitioners must show a willingness to maintain communication with the sarcoma centre
- Designated practitioners must have the ability to start radiotherapy in a timely manner
- Designated practitioners must participate in pathway development and maintenance and audit of sarcoma cases as appropriate
- For specified centres, there must be appropriate inpatient and outpatient facilities for children and young people
- Designation will be reviewed by the Sarcoma MDT and SAG at least biennially

Designated radiotherapy practitioners outside of sarcoma centres

STS = Soft Tissue Sarcoma; BS = Bone Sarcoma

Trust	Practitioner	Email	STC Radical	STC Palliative	STC GIST	BS Radical	BS Palliative	Children	TYA
University Hospital Southampton	Jeng Ching	jeng.ching@uhs.nhs.uk	X	X	NA	X	X	NA	X
University Hospital Southampton	Carolyn Macfarlane	carolyn.macfarlane@uhs.nhs.uk	X	X	NA	X	X	NA	X
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston	Tim Spencer (Children)	tim.spencer@uhbw.nhs.uk	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	NA
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston	Gareth Ayre	gareth.ayre@uhbw.nhs.uk	X	X	NA	X	X	NA	X
Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital	Lyndsey Phelps	lyndsey.phelps@nhs.net	NA	NA	NA	X	X	NA	X
University Hospitals Plymouth	Udaiveer Panwar	upanwar@nhs.net	NA	NA	NA		X	NA	X
Royal Cornwall Hospital	Udaiveer Panwar	upanwar@nhs.net	X	X	NA	X	X	NA	X