

Radiotherapy Board

Summary Report 4: May 2024

The [Radiotherapy Board](#) is a partnership between the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM), The Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) and the Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR). It provides guidance, oversight and support for the continuing development of high-quality radiotherapy services for patients with cancer in the UK.

The work of the Radiotherapy Board

Since its previous Summary Report in October 2023 the Radiotherapy Board has:

- hosted a **second follow-up meeting** to its successful 2023 Workforce Day. Representatives of Radiotherapy Operational Delivery Networks and devolved nations came together to provide feedback on the utility of the Radiotherapy Board's [workforce strategy template](#), to share updates on local workforce strategies and plans, and to consider the ongoing workforce challenges across all radiotherapy disciplines. The Workforce Strategy template will be revised over summer 2024 with up-to-date workforce data from IPEM, the RCR and the SCoR.
- [published a report](#) on **the estimated cost of radiotherapy in England**. Data were input to a time-driven activity-based economic model developed by the ESTROⁱ HEROⁱⁱ project. The results provide an indication not only of the overall cost of radiotherapy in England but also the major cost-drivers and the resource needs. This report provides robust evidence that will enable the Radiotherapy Board and its constituent professional bodies to advocate for better funding for radiotherapy, better resource planning and ultimately better care for patients with cancer.
- produced a [policy briefing](#) on **the decline in operational performance in radiotherapy**, the drivers behind lengthening waiting times for patients and what action is needed at national and local level to support radiotherapy services. The briefing focuses on England where there is most data available but many of the themes and recommendations will be applicable to all four UK nations – including workforce, recruitment and retention, and clarity over future funding models.
- completed a review of its 2015 **guidance on managing patients receiving radiotherapy with a cardiac implanted electronic device (IED)**. The new edition is due to be published by summer 2024.
- continued to develop new guidance on **the management of patients with non-cardiac IEDs**. An increasing number of patients with cancer being treated with radiotherapy are presenting with a variety of these devices (such as cochlear implants, nerve and bone stimulators, insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitors). This new guidance – a companion to the cardiac IEDs document - will provide practical advice on the correct procedures to follow to ensure patient safety during treatment and reduce the risk of adverse events occurring.
- maintained its focus on the increasingly-urgent need to reduce the environmental impact of radiotherapy. A multi-professional **Working Group on Sustainability in Radiotherapy** is aiming to raise the profile of sustainability in radiotherapy, and to both encourage and support radiotherapy teams to adopt more sustainable ways of working. Examples from across the UK from [centres that have implemented sustainable ways of working](#) are now available online. Further work is underway to assess the feasibility of introducing a framework to accredit radiotherapy departments on their environmental sustainability achievements.

- Continued to monitor the deployment of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in radiotherapy. The Board recognises that this is a rapidly-evolving field, with many activities and applications under consideration. It continues to emphasise the need for a coordinated approach across all radiotherapy professions, to achieve maximum impact for radiotherapy services, teams and ultimately patients with cancer, and avoid duplication of effort.

Visit the Radiotherapy Board at ESTRO 2024!

The Radiotherapy Board will have a networking space in the Communities Pavilion at ESTRO 2024, which is being held in Glasgow from 3-7 May. ***If you are attending ESTRO 2024, please drop by to meet members of the Board and find out more about what the Board is doing to support the radiotherapy community!***

You can also read about the work of the Radiotherapy Board on [this set of web pages](#) (hosted for the Board by the RCR) and you can contact us at RadiotherapyBoard@rcr.ac.uk.

ⁱ European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology

ⁱⁱ Health Economics in Radiotherapy