

Improving the palliative radiotherapy training experience of junior Clinical Oncology trainees

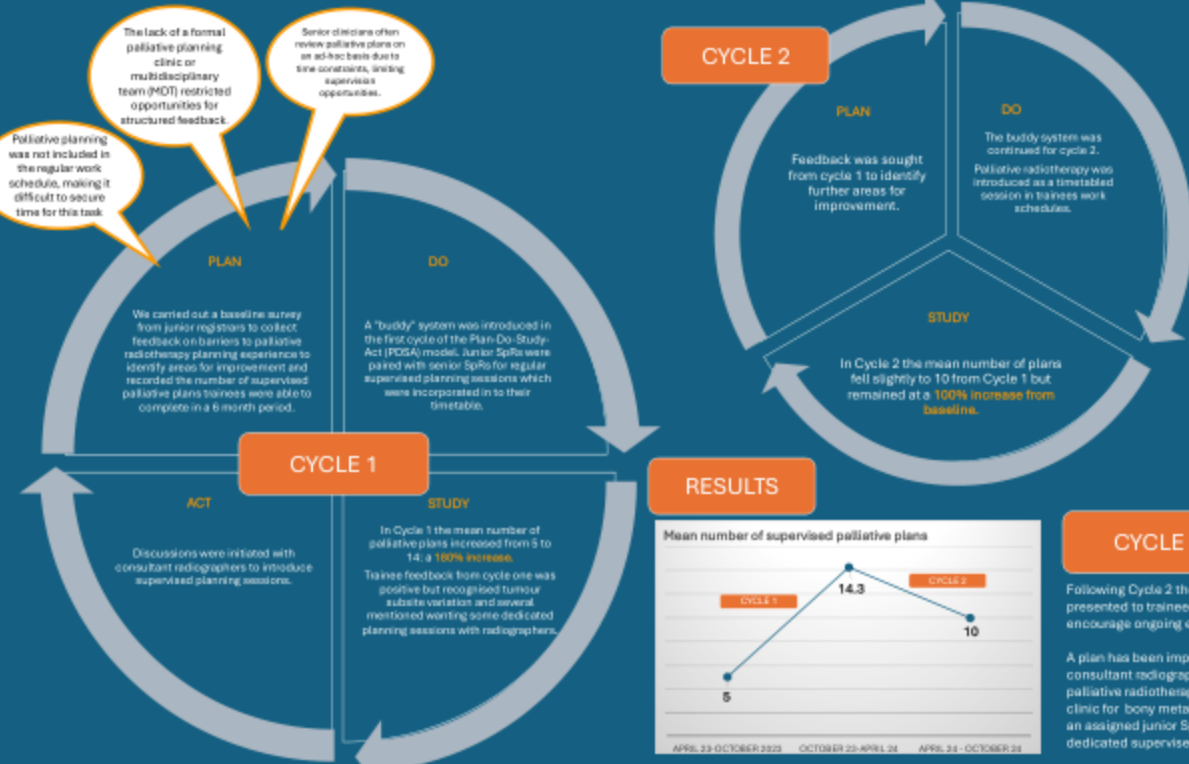
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BACKGROUND

- Junior Clinical Oncology Registrars (SpR) reported inadequate experience in palliative radiotherapy planning
- Palliative radiotherapy accounts for 30-50% of radiotherapy courses² and palliative radiotherapy planning is a vital part of the national training programme
- Early exposure to palliative planning is expected to prepare trainees for independent work post-part 1 exams
- Expediting independence in palliative planning may improve departmental efficiency and speed up patients' pathways which has been identified as a key goal by the Radiotherapy Board to meet radiotherapy treatment targets³

AIM

- Increase the number of supervised palliative plans completed by the junior registrar cohort by **50% over 12 months**



DISCUSSION

- Introduction of the buddy system and timetabled palliative planning sessions were effective at improving palliative radiotherapy training experience and results show relatively sustained improvement.
- There are further planned interventions to continue improvements.
- We anticipate increased supervised palliative radiotherapy plans will increase confidence and expedite registrars ability to complete palliative radiotherapy plans independently.
- Enabling independent working may help speed up patients radiotherapy treatment pathways and reduce pressure on the consultant workforce.
- Improving the training experience of registrars will improve workplace satisfaction and help to retain current trainees in the workforce.

1. Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre

2. Mellson KL, Venetianu E, Smeets S, Ripken B, Adriaens M, Vissers L, Baniak S, de la Fuente AL, Hoffmann D, Slotman BL, Verbaak WFAF. Same-day adaptive palliative radiotherapy without prior CT simulation: Early outcomes in the FAST-METS study. *Radiother Oncol*. 2023 May;182:395-54. doi: 10.1016/j.radonc.2023.109536. Epub 2023 Feb 16. PMID: 36884603.

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