

Priorities for radiotherapy 2019–20

Workforce

Patients with cancer need timely access to high-quality radiotherapy treatment

We urgently need more clinical oncologists and other radiotherapy professionals to enable this. Without them, we cannot deliver gold-standard radiotherapy and implement new, effective cancer therapies as they are developed.



Equipment

Patients deserve treatment with state-of-the-art radiotherapy machines

We need a fully funded, national rolling hardware and software upgrade programme. Without this, there will continue to be widespread variation in access to cutting-edge radiotherapy.



IT

Patients with cancer need their professional teams to be able to share complex information effectively

We need better connectivity both within and between hospitals to enable collaboration. This will also improve access to specialists in less common cancers. Without this, more patients will have to travel for treatment or will not be able to access the specialist expertise they need.



Networks

Patients need safe, high-quality radiotherapy in every UK centre

The new radiotherapy operational delivery networks in England are an opportunity to reduce variation and improve collaboration. They need investment in staff and technology. Similar models should be introduced in the devolved nations. Without this, quality of care will vary unnecessarily.



Wellbeing

Patients get better care if the doctors treating them work in a supportive environment

We need improved working conditions, wellbeing and support for all staff to enable them to deliver excellent care to people with cancer. Without this, quality of care will decline and cancer clinicians will continue to leave the NHS.

