



The Royal College of Radiologists

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**NHS England: Specialised services clinical commissioning policies and service specification 8th wave – sarcoma**

**Response from The Royal College of Radiologists  
(Faculty of Clinical Radiology)**

Access to a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) for sarcoma varies hugely throughout the UK dependent of resources. Some MDTs cover geographically large areas, with pressure to merge or move centres to achieve the minimum targets. With videoconferencing and region wide PACS access, MDTs that combine several centres can achieve the numbers whilst allowing patient travel distances to their treatment and clinical appointments to be more acceptable.

The new NICE guidance suggests that ultrasound should be the primary tool for sarcoma diagnosis. This statement should be clarified to indicate that ultrasound should be performed by expert ultrasonologists experienced in sarcoma diagnosis. The clinical criteria for referral should also be more explicit, as the current wording is open to misinterpretation.

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