

RADIOTHERAPY PRIORITISATION LEVELS

COVID-19 DOCUMENT

CATEGORY:	Guidance
CLASSIFICATION:	Clinical
PURPOSE	This document provides guidance on prioritising patients for radiotherapy during the COVID-19 outbreak.
COVID Controlled Document Number	C001
Version Number:	1.0
Document Author:	Radiotherapy Lead Manager
Approved By:	Consultant Clinical Oncologist
On:	03/03/2021
Review date:	03/03/2023
Distribution:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential Reading for: 	Clinicians, all non medical Prescribers, Pharmacists and nurses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information for: 	Wards Managers, Senior Nurses, ADNs, Divisional Directors

RADIOTHERAPY PRIORITISATION LEVELS

Action level		Definition	Radiotherapy priority Category to Treat	Treatment rooms available
Level 1	Minimal Staffing Impact	Normal Service	All patients	All
Level 1a	State of readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpone all benign treatments Use of single fraction regimens for palliative treatment to reduce treatment slots required Defer treatment of uncomplicated BCC Defer all radical radiotherapy for prostate cancer by 3 months (patients to continue on ADT) 	Level 1-5 ¹	All
Level 2	Less than 80% of normal staff available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where possible use hypofractionation for adjuvant and radical treatments to reduce the number of treatment slots required (e.g. low-grade glioma, to move to 5 fraction adjuvant regimens in breast cancer) Defer by 1-3 month the planning of low risk adjuvant and radical treatments such as DCIS, Indolent NHL 	Level 1-4 ¹	Versas: 1,7,10,11 Precise: 5 Tomotherapy units: 4,6 CT HDR Closed: SXT/ orthovoltage: 3
Level 3	Less than 50% of normal staff available	In addition to above <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpone all palliatives except where life threatening conditions or MSCC 	Level 1-3 ¹	Versas: 7,10 Precise: 5 Tomotherapy units: 4,6 CT HDR Closed: SXT/ orthovoltage: 3 Versas 1,11
Level 4	Less than 25% of normal staff available	In addition to above - defer all adjuvant treatments	Level 1-2 ¹	Versas: 7 Tomotherapy units: 4,6 Closed: SXT/ orthovoltage: 3 Versas 1,10, 11 Precise: 5 CT HDR
Level 5	Less than 10 % of normal staff available	Cancel all treatments except any life threatening treatments such as bleeding tumours		

Further guidance on Corona virus and cancer can be found through the [NHS page on Specialty Guides](#)

1. Radiation Therapy

Categorisation of patients

Priority level 1:

- Patients with category 1 (rapidly proliferating) tumours currently being treated with radical (chemo)radiotherapy with curative intent where there is little or no scope for compensation of gaps.
- Patients with category 1 tumours in whom combined External Beam Radiotherapy (EBRT) and subsequent brachytherapy is the management plan and the EBRT is already underway.
- Patients with category 1 tumours who have not yet started and in whom clinical need determines that treatment should start in line with current cancer waiting times.

Priority level 2:

- Urgent palliative radiotherapy in patients with malignant spinal cord compression who have useful salvageable neurological function.

Priority level 3:

- Radical radiotherapy for category 2 (less aggressive) tumours where radiotherapy is the first definitive treatment.
- Post-operative radiotherapy where there is known residual disease following surgery in tumours with aggressive biology

Priority level 4:

- Palliative radiotherapy where alleviation of symptoms would reduce the burden on other healthcare services, such as haemoptysis

Priority level 5:

- Adjuvant radiotherapy where there has been complete resection of disease and there is a <20% risk of recurrence at 10 years, for example most ER positive breast cancer in patients receiving endocrine therapy.
- Radical radiotherapy for prostate cancer in patients receiving neo-adjuvant hormone therapy.

2. Decision Making

Decision making will be made by the Radiotherapy Service Lead or their nominated deputy after consulting with the Radiotherapy Lead Manager and Head of Radiotherapy Physics.