

CHKS Standard: Radiotherapy Services



Standard 43: Radiotherapy service

Radiotherapy is the use of high-energy rays to cure or control cancer. Therapy modalities would include external beam modalities and internal/interstitial therapies. All radiotherapy is delivered in a planned, safe, timely manner in a supportive environment for patients.

Subsections

- Indicators
- Management
- Verification
- Treatment delivery

	Indicators
	Surveyors will be checking that data is collected and routinely used to review and improve service delivery. Analysis of data for adverse variance and trends will be explored as part of the assessment process to ensure good systems are in place to support good outcomes.
	The indicators will not be judged as part of the accreditation award but will be used to provide contextual information. Indicators should be considered as to their full meaning, and what it reflects about the organisation, safety and quality of care. Particular attention should be given to the reliability of the data source and the denominators, to reduce the chance of misinterpretation.
43.1	What percentage of external beam radiotherapy treatments are given as a proportion of all radiotherapy treatments?
	Guidance There should be evidence of ongoing monitoring and trends in the data.
43.2	What percentage of patients in the cancer service wait over 31-days for subsequent treatment where the treatment was a course of radiotherapy?
	Guidance There should be evidence of ongoing monitoring and trends in the data
43.3	What percentage of breaches of the NHS target 31/62 day waiting time occur as a proportion of all external beam radiotherapy treatments?

	Management
43.4 New!	The service works in accordance with all current national regulatory frameworks.
	Guidance In the UK, this includes the new Safety Assessment consent required to carry out specified practices under Regulation 7 of IRR from the Health and Safety Executive. Evidence could include for example: certificates/photographic evidence, related documentation. Reference Care Quality Commission, Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations (IR(ME)R) Ionising Radiation Regulations 2017 Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations IR(ME)R 2017 Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 Health Service Executive, Ionising Radiation
43.5 New!	There is an operations policy or service specification for the service.
	Guidance The policy would specify the types of modalities and techniques available within the service. Specific details are also provided where radiotherapy is provided for children. Evidence could include for example: operational policy document or service specification.

43.6

There are current procedures and systems in place for accepting referrals into the service for treatment.

Guidance

This includes routine referrals and emergency referrals. The process for accepting emergencies should include who can make referrals, how referrals are prioritised, the type of referrals accepted as an emergency and general referral criterion, and the treatment modality to be used.

The procedure should specify the medical data required so that the treatment can be justified (IR(ME)R), the diagnosis, histology and clinical findings required in order to put the sequence of events into place prior to the patient attending for their first appointment in the service.

If there is an electronic referral system, the system must have the facility to ensure that only authorised referrers are able to make the referral.

Referrals should be seen within nationally agreed timescales, and these should be included within the procedure.

Evidence could include for example: referral procedures and processes.

Reference

<u>Ionising Radiation Regulations 2017</u>

<u>Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations IR(ME)R 2017</u>

<u>Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) (Amendment) Regulations 2018</u>

Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations: Implications for Clinical Practice in Radiotherapy. Guidance from the Radiotherapy Board June 2020

Ionising Radiation Regulations (Ireland) 2019European Union (Basic Safety

Standards for Protection Against Dangers arising from Medical Exposure to Ionising Radiation Regulations 2018

<u>European Union (Basic Safety Standards for Protection Against Dangers Arising from Medical Exposure to Ionising Radiation) (Amendment) Regulations 2019</u>

The Ionising Radiations Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018

NHS, Manual for Cancer Services, April 2011. National Cancer Programme.

43.7

There are systems in place to ensure required clinical checks are undertaken, reports are received, and corrective action taken (if required) prior to starting each course of treatment.

Guidance

Such checks may include blood tests, dental, allergy, medication, confirmation of diagnosis, laterality and other diagnostic investigations or specific requirements for clinical trials Corrective actions may include, blood transfusions, parenteral nutrition etc, prior to treatment being commenced.

Evidence could include for example: standard operating procedures for bookings, MDT outcomes, audit reports.

Reference

Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations IR(ME)R 2017
Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) (Amendment) Regulations 2018
Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations: Implications for Clinical Practice in Radiotherapy. Guidance from the Radiotherapy Board June 2020
Health Research Authority. May 2022. Clinical Trials of Investigational Medicinal Products (CTIMPS)

43.8

There are procedures in place for determining the pregnancy status for patients of childbearing age.

Guidance

Evidence could include for example: related procedures and checks.

Reference

Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations IR(ME)R 2017
Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) (Amendment) Regulations 2018
Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations: Implications for Clinical Practice in Radiotherapy. Guidance from the Radiotherapy Board June 2020
The Society and College of Radiographers, 2019. The impact of IR(ME) 2017
IR(ME)R (NI) 2018 on pregnancy checking procedures.
The Society and College of Radiographers, Inclusive pregnancy status guidelines for ionising radiation: Diagnostic and therapeutic exposures
The Royal College of Radiologists, 2015 (currently under review). A guide to

understanding the implications of the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure)

Regulations in diagnostic and interventional radiology.

43.9 New!

Information is prominently displayed alerting pregnant and breast-feeding patients of the dangers of radiation to the foetus or baby.

Guidance

Radiation includes imaging, MRI and radionuclide administration.

These signs should be multilingual and/or pictorial and are best situated in reception and waiting areas.

Written information should be provided in appointment letters and in information booklets.

Evidence could include for example: photographic evidence, information sources.

Reference

Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations IR(ME)R 2017
Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) (Amendment) Regulations 2018
Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations: Implications for Clinical Practice in Radiotherapy. Guidance from the Radiotherapy Board June 2020
The Society and College of Radiographers, 2019. The impact of IR(ME) 2017
IR(ME)R (NI) 2018 on pregnancy checking procedures.

The Society and College of Radiographers, Inclusive pregnancy status guidelines for ionising radiation: Diagnostic and therapeutic exposures

43.10

Risk assessments for radiation exposure to carers and comforters are carried out prior to treatment delivery.

Guidance

Carers and comforters should be made aware of the risks and benefits of being present during a radiation exposure and that their participation is offered both knowingly and willingly. Dose control methods should be implemented, for example, the provision of personal protective equipment.

Evidence could include for example: evidence of risk assessment, related incident reports, minutes of meetings and action plans.

Reference

World Health Organisation, 2016. Communicating radiation risks in paediatric <u>imaging.</u>

UK Gov, 2011. Medical X-ray: Radiation risks by age and sex of patients.

Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations IR(ME)R 2017

Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) (Amendment) Regulations 2018

Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations: Implications for Clinical Practice in Radiotherapy. Guidance from the Radiotherapy Board June 2020 <u>Ionising Radiation Regulations (Ireland) 2019</u> European Union (Basic Safety Standards for Protection Against Dangers arising from Medical Exposure to Ionising Radiation Regulations 2018 European Union (Basic Safety Standards for Protection Against Dangers Arising from Medical Exposure to Ionising Radiation) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 The Ionising Radiations Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018 43.11 New! Locked content 43.12 **Locked content**

Read The Full Standard



Contact our CHKS Accreditation team to receive the full standard document and to discuss your Radiotherapy Department's quality improvement goals.

Read Full Standard

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