

Yorkshire and Humber Radiotherapy Operational Delivery Network

Newsletter - August 2025



Yorkshire and Humber
RADIOTHERAPY
NETWORK



Sheffield Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust



**The Leeds
Teaching Hospitals**
NHS Trust



**Hull University
Teaching Hospitals**
NHS Trust

What is the Yorkshire & Humber 'ODN'?

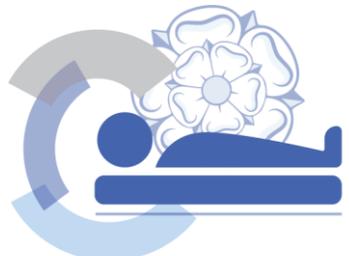


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- ▶ Radiotherapy Operational Delivery Networks (ODNs) created by NHS England in 2019
- ▶ 11 regional networks in England
- ▶ Yorkshire and Humber ODN (YHODN) being your local network of:

Hull
Leeds
Sheffield

- ▶ Based on the NHSE RT ODN Service Specification, the function of the ODN is to:
 - ▶ Improve regional access to modern radiotherapy
 - ▶ Improve patient experience
 - ▶ Increase participation in research and clinical trials
 - ▶ Reduce unwarranted variation in services



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Hull University Teaching Hospitals
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Core ODN team



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▶ Programme Manager

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Paddy Carley

▶ Data & Project Officer

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▶ Bioinformatician support from the LTH Clinical Scientific Computing Team

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Network Oversight Group (NOG)

○ ODN Chair and Deputy Chair

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○ Heads of Radiotherapy

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○ Heads of Radiotherapy Physics

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○ Lead Clinicians

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○ Representatives from Humber & North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance, South Yorkshire & Bassetlaw, West Yorkshire & Harrogate Cancer Alliance

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○ Representative from NHS England Specialised Commissioning Team

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○ ODN Clinical Trials Lead Clinician & Molecular Radiotherapy Lead Clinician

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○ ODN Molecular Radiotherapy Lead Clinical Scientist

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Workplan 2025/26

- ▶ The goal for 2025/26 is improving cancer waits in line with Government priorities.
- ▶ Improvement in cancer waits requires productivity gains through:
 - ▶ The way people work - processes and workforce change.
 - ▶ Delivering best quality care e.g., maximising technology, implementation of best practice and streamlined pathways.
 - ▶ Prostate pathway review and implementation to ensure once the clinical commissioning policy is published (PACE B), patients on this pathway receive treatment within 62 days as a first definitive treatment.

Workplan 2025/26

Plans and focuses for the upcoming year

Network Operations:

- Development of the ODN website
- Distribution of the ODN newsletter
- Memorandum of Understanding & Terms of Reference review
- Contributions to Radiotherapy Network manager meetings
- Completion of the ODN annual report

Technology & Equipment:

- Linac productivity analysis and sharing of good practice
- Regular uploads and involvement in ProKnow national audits
- Targeted analysis of data variation
- Maintenance of the emerging technologies log with escalations if required.

Workforce:

- ODN support for trust open days
- Review of career leaflets
- Completion of Radiotherapy Support staffing analysis project
- Facilitate cross site information sharing groups for apprenticeships.

Quality and Patient Experience:

- Support teams to share good practice
- Undertake network patient survey
- Investigate barriers to digital access
- Undertake clinical protocol reviews
- 5 fraction prostate implementation
- Monitor 31-day & 62-day wait times locally and nationally and share key updates.

Surface Guided Radiotherapy (SGRT)

ODN: Awareness and preparedness for emerging technologies and treatments

- ▶ Surface-Guided Radiation Therapy (SGRT): a technology that uses multiple cameras to track a patient's body surface in 3D during radiation treatment.
- ▶ Since February 2024, the ODN has had regular meetings to share purchasing and implementation experience across the network for SGRT



- ▶ HUTH is approaching tattooless for all sites, with pelvis the next to be authorised.



- ▶ LTHT have gone live and 5-fraction breast patients are the first cohort to be tattooless.



- ▶ STH business case is ongoing using Hull and Leeds successes to support

LTHT Highlight

First deaf patient scanned in vDIBH - Leeds

- ▶ Leeds Teaching Hospitals has scanned their first deaf patient in vDIBH using the new SimRT/SGRT software. This is a great step forward in improving health inequalities and making this technique more accessible.
- ▶ It was a great team effort from RTS who devised a light which is attached to the side of the Real Time Coaching device (RTC). This was switched on when the patient had to breathe in and switched off when they should breathe out. This coupled with the use of the RTC also enable the patient to visually see the depth of breath to constantly breathe in.
- ▶ When the patient comes for treatment they will use the light and the RTC to successfully treat her in breath hold using SGRT.
- ▶ Special thanks goes to the BSL interpreter, Catriona, and Elmira (the patient) who was a superstar!



STH Highlight

TOURIST: ThOracic Umbrella Radlotherapy Study in stage IV NSCLC

- ▶ TOURIST is a platform study in radiotherapy consisting of multiple sub-studies. Currently, the study is open to the PRINCE sub-study (looking at early high-dose palliative thoracic radiotherapy, randomising patients receiving standard of care first line systemic therapy to either 36Gy in 12 fractions, or 39Gy in 13 fractions) and the QUARTZ LUNG sub-study (looking at early low-dose palliative thoracic radiotherapy, randomising patients to either 16Gy in 2 fractions, 17Gy in 2 fractions or 20Gy in 5 fractions).
- ▶ The study is sponsored by The Christie NHS Foundation Trust and led by Co-Is Dr David Woolf (The Christine NHS Foundation Trust) and Prof. Matthew Hatton (Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust).
- ▶ STH are pleased to announce that following their opening of the study in August 2024, they are currently the highest recruiting site nationally, and are now looking to open their local DGHs at Rotherham, Chesterfield, Barnsley and Doncaster as spoke sites.
- ▶ [ThOracic Umbrella Radlotherapy Study in stage IV NSCLC - TOURIST - NIHR Funding and Awards](#)

HUTH Highlight

HSJ Digital Award Nomination for Radiotherapy Physics & publication of VMAT protocol for Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer by Urology team

- ▶ The HUTH Radiotherapy Physics team were nominated at the Health Service Journal awards for unlocking productivity and efficiency with digital improvements. The ceremony took place at the end of June and you can see the other nominations [here](#).
- ▶ The Urology team have published '*Radical radiotherapy using volumetric-modulated arc therapy for treating bladder and pelvic lymph nodes in locally advanced bladder cancer: A retrospective single-center study*', which is available to view [here](#).



HUTH Research Highlight

PROTIEUS and POINTER-PC Trial Updates

- ▶ HUTH recently joined the **PROTIEUS** trial which is now open for recruitment locally. This is a randomised phase 2 study comparing proton- versus photon-based neoadjuvant chemoradiation, followed by adjuvant immunotherapy, in oesophageal cancer. The study is funded by Cancer Research UK and is sponsored by University College London. <https://www.isrctn.com/ISRCTN50098578>
- ▶ Recruitment into **POINTER-PC** is also about to start locally after successful completion of all setup activities. This is a phase 3 study comparing SBRT versus Extended Nodal Irradiation (ENI) (in either 5 or 20 fractions) in prostate cancer patients with PET-CT defined pelvic nodal recurrence. The study is funded by the Yorkshire Cancer Research (YCR) and is sponsored by the University of Leeds. <https://www.isrctn.com/ISRCTN11089334>
- ▶ HUTH are excited to be following a trial protocol with specific re-irradiation considerations for the first time.

ODN Clinical Trials Tracker

- ▶ The ODN, in collaboration with Clinical Trials teams from each of the Radiotherapy centres have produced a Radiotherapy Clinical Trials tracker for Yorkshire, which can be accessed [here](#)
- ▶ Please feel free to share this tracker widely to boost awareness of research being undertaken in your area