



Our Vision

To provide every patient
with the care we want
for those we love the most

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals



NHS Foundation Trust

Developing a Radiographer Led Brachytherapy Service

LTWRAP conference Sheffield 2016

Katie Cooper
Consultant Radiographer
(Brachytherapy)



Endometrial vaginal vault pathway

Low / intermediate - BXR only 4# vault treatment 5.5Gy / #
Prescribed to 0.5cm depth – top 3.0cm vagina

Intermediate / high grade –
EBRT 45Gy in 25# followed by 2 # HDR (same px)





Our Vision

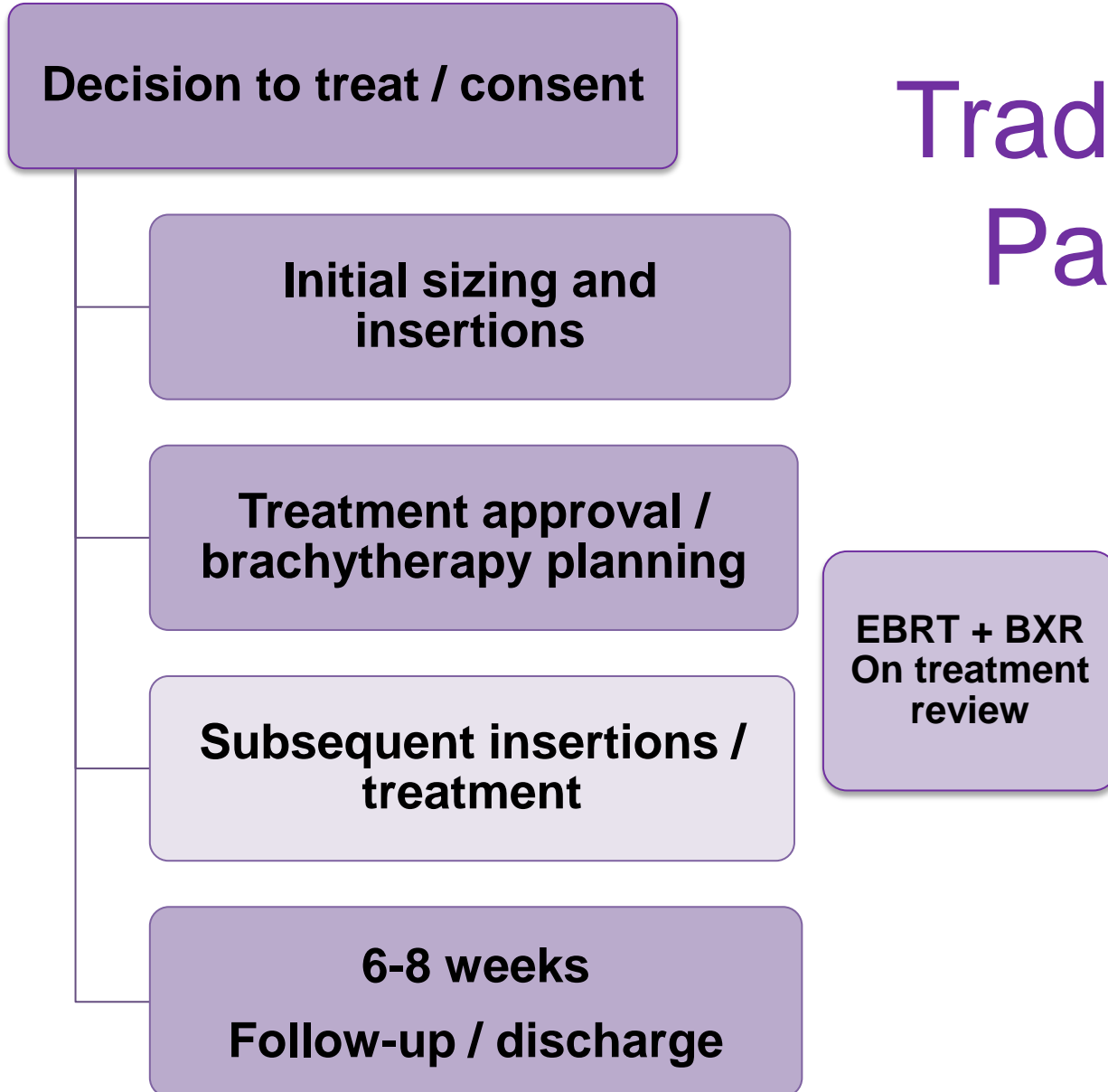
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Traditional Pathway





Initial sizing / insertion

Bimanual examination

- Consultant supervision / in-house training
- MSc Expert practice module (SHU) case studies
- SCoR / HCPC standards
- Legal and ethical considerations
- Developed / approved increased scope of practice documentation

**Decision to treat /
consent**

**Initial sizing and
insertions**

**Treatment approval /
brachytherapy
planning**

**Subsequent insertions /
treatment**

**6-8 weeks
Follow-up / discharge**



Treatment approval / brachytherapy planning

- Consultant / physics supervision / in-house training
- MSc Expert practice module (SHU) case studies
- Added to physics skills matrix
 - Further developed as trainer and cascaded to all lead BXR radiographers

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Patient review

- Consultant / Macmillan review in-house training
- MSc Independent work based learning module (UH)
- MSc Psychology of cancer module (SHU)
- PGD training / moving to independent px

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/ brachytherapy
planning**

**Subsequent
insertions /
treatment**

**6-8 weeks
Follow-up /
discharge**

**EBRT + BXR
On treatment
review**



Follow-up / discharge

- Consultant supervision / in-house training
- MSc to consolidate knowledge & understanding of the whole pathway
- Training with gynaecological surgical team
- Relevant courses / study days

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**Initial sizing and
insertions**

**Treatment approval /
brachytherapy
planning**

**Subsequent insertions /
treatment**

**6-8 weeks
Follow-up / discharge**

Challenges / barriers to implementation

- Consultant / Manager / Advanced practitioner expectations of the role.
- Increased accountability of Advanced / Consultant radiographer
- Time – increased workload / lack of backfill / support.
- Development of skills – continually evolving role as knowledge, understanding and trust is developed.
- Work / home life balance (MSc completion)

Benefits to department / practice and patients

- Improved patient quality and continuity of care.
- Enhanced equipment utilisation.
- Improved workforce utilisation.
- Greater patient throughput, improved adherence to cancer awaiting times.
- Greater job satisfaction.