

Research Therapeutic Radiographer



Early experiences in a new role

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Introduction

- ▶ Important to involve patients undergoing radiotherapy treatment in research and clinical trials
- ▶ Evidence-based practice
- ▶ Overview of a new Advanced Practice role at The Queen's Centre, Castle Hill Hospital
 - ▶ Early Experiences
 - ▶ Barriers and Challenges
 - ▶ Future goals

Overview

- ▶ Research role developed from radiotherapy department goals for R&D and coordination of this
- ▶ Responsibilities include:
 - ▶ Increasing number of radiotherapy patients involved in clinical trials
 - ▶ Aid in setup and smooth running of NIHR portfolio trials (11 locally)
 - ▶ Point of contact for Therapeutic Radiographers with regards to trials
 - ▶ Liaison for Research Nurses, Radiotherapy Nurses, Booking Co-ordinators and others

Active Trials at CHH

Open/Recruiting

- Aristotle (Colorectal)
- CIPHER (Brain Mets/Breast)
- ComPare (Head and Neck)
- De-Escalate (Head and Neck)
- INTERLACE (Gynae)
- PATHOS (Head and Neck)
- POSNOC (Breast)
- PRAIS (Bone Mets)
- RADICALS (Prostate)
- SCALOP2 (Pancreas)
- STAMPEDE (HEY & SNEY) (Prostate)

In Setup

- Neo-Aegis (Upper GI)
- SCOPE 2 (Upper GI)
- ROAM (Brain)

Overview

- ▶ Other Responsibilities include:
 - ▶ Working alongside Physicist with Trials interest
 - ▶ Therapeutic Radiographer consulted for the development of new trial process documents
 - ▶ Support all Therapeutic Radiographers involved in setting up in-house service development and research trials

Early Experiences

- ▶ Support and guidance from wider radiotherapy research community
- ▶ Good Clinical Practice training
- ▶ Increasing my own and radiotherapy department knowledge regarding NIHR portfolio trials active and those in-setup
- ▶ Building a dialogue with local R&D, Academic Oncology, Research Nurses, Data Managers
- ▶ Getting to grips with the EDGE

Early Experiences

- ▶ Reporting trials numbers, identifying barriers to recruitment and how to address them
- ▶ Liaising with other trusts where patients are attending for radiotherapy in our department
- ▶ Attending and feeding back from conferences, trials workshops
- ▶ Reducing protocol violations
- ▶ Radiotherapy viewpoint to new trials, setting realistic targets

Barriers/Challenges

- ▶ Integrating with other local areas, meetings
- ▶ Identifying research, service evaluation, audit and usual practice
- ▶ Changes in R&D
 - ▶ All local/national studies needing ethical approval via Health Research Authority from April 2016
 - ▶ Funding cuts and local restructure
- ▶ Protecting time and staffing
- ▶ Research as a part of daily practice

Future Goals

- ▶ Increase number of radiotherapy patients on trials
- ▶ Changing focus to local studies/service development
- ▶ Rolling out GCP training to all Advanced Practitioners and therapeutic radiographers
- ▶ Horizon-scanning for new trials
- ▶ Develop/support others in getting research published, building experience/confidence
- ▶ Developing capacity for research getting all involved (SCOR Research Strategy 2016-2021)

Conclusion

- ▶ Benefits and challenges in undertaking a Research Therapeutic Radiographer role
- ▶ Important to consider the local department and trust goals for R&D
- ▶ Consider departmental culture in building the role
- ▶ Flexibility and good communication skills are imperative
- ▶ Sharing knowledge with others to benefit patients

