

Evidence submitted by the charity Action Radiotherapy

Approximately 5000 multidiscipline health care professional deliver radiotherapy (RT) in the UK. Action Radiotherapy is the only UK charity committed to improving radiotherapy and supports professionals on the ground, patients and a range of stakeholders from official organisations and societies to industry. It acts as secretariat to APPG for RT and supports the Radiotherapy4Life (R4L) campaign.

Action Radiotherapy's response:

At beginning of Covid-19 crisis, it became clear immediately that there were major problems facing with radiotherapy service which had not been appreciated during the planning and there was what seemed a very slow response to the needs of the service and the cancer patients.

The charity therefore immediately responded and committed to providing support for those in the RT profession and patients receiving RT. The RT workforce is technology based and so electronic and social media communications have been utilised for rapid dissemination of information and collection of feedback and concerns:

- (i) A [daily update](#) of RT Covid publications and guideline links from UK and around world in the form of an 8am email delivered to 1300 subscribers. Tweets go to our 3687 followers and a [designated section of the website is updated daily](#).
- (ii) A [support guide for therapeutic radiographers](#) working in the Covid-19 environment.
- (iii) A [FAQ section for patients](#)
- (iv) [A regular blog](#), one describing working with PPE "...behind the mask" which used by at least one team to demonstrate to their Trust CEO what the work force actually do.
- (v) The charity has held weekly discussion with a team of 'on the ground' professionals making up the AR Champions Network feeding back information and sharing solutions from around the country and providing real time information of the unfolding situation.
- (vi) Moral boosting Tweets from celebrities such as Stephen Fry and Bryan Robson OBE.
- (vii) Charity contacts have provided inspiring video clips for patients on how to cope with radiotherapy treatment concerns during the Covid-19 crisis. [A series produced by Olympic gold medallist David Smith MBE has been very popular](#).
- (viii) Information from the RT community and its patients has been fed through to the APPG for radiotherapy which has in turn provided a weekly update to MPs and the House of Lords about RT during the Coronavirus. This is also provided [on the APPG-RT website](#). This has been particularly useful for urgent communication e.g. from the Society of Radiographers who look after 50% of the RT workforce and who needed urgent prioritisation for PPE
- (ix) Launched an International [Global Coalition for Radiotherapy](#); linking professionals, societies, agencies and industry to provide rapid communication of the experience of radiotherapy delivery during the pandemic, data, solutions and research to ensure patients can maintain access to RT during the Covid-19 crisis.
- (x) Support for other countries internationally who access the AR website, including professionals in Turkey translating and sharing our daily email newsletter for their professionals.

ACTION RADIOTHERAPY

DEDICATED TO IMPROVING CANCER TREATMENT

- (xi) In collaboration with [the campaign Radiotherapy4Life](#), the charity has summarised issues for the media and supported patients who have come forward with their concerns