

## **Management of Cancer in LTHT during the COVID Pandemic**

### **Update provided by LTHT Corporate Cancer Team 07/04/2020 for Primary Care**

There is limited cancer diagnostic testing across all services. Only very urgent cases will progress to testing. LTHT still need to receive suspected cancer referrals to ensure those who can and need to progress a cancer pathway do so. LTHT also need to be able to plan a rapid and coordinated response prioritising access to services for those most in need once the intensity of the pandemic has passed.

LTHT will continue to treat as many cancer patients as possible in accordance with professional college/society and NHSE/PHE guidance.

The surgical capacity within LTHT has become increasingly compromised as theatres are turned turn over to create intensive care capacity. Equipment from the independent sector (IS) has been brought into the NHS to support this rapid transformation. The IS are supporting LTHT by receiving the more vulnerable longer term patients such as Neuro Rehab and Gastro for example.

Where clinically appropriate patients are being offered non-surgical options either as a definitive treatment or as a holding treatment until surgery can be offered e.g. hormones or radiotherapy. Surgery, though limited, is currently being delivered across all specialities to treat cancer. Patients are being assessed on an individual basis and prioritised according to clinical urgency and individual risk.

Radiotherapy services are continuing and are currently meeting the increased demand from reprioritised cases. In line with college guidance patients are being prioritised according to nationally agreed clinical categories and individual case need.

Chemotherapy also continues subject to individual risk benefit assessment. However chemotherapy treatment of priority level 6 patients has been ceased due to increased risk to this group of patients from COVID-19.