

Radiology update – 27 May 2020

As advised in the 9 April GP briefing, all routine radiology has been stopped at LTHT, with the exception of urgent or 2 week wait requests.

SOPs have been published with regards to [accessing urgent chest x-ray and urgent plain film x-ray](#).

For any other radiology investigations, please note that only clinically urgent requests should currently be made in the usual manner on ICE (please highlight very clearly why it is an urgent request).

On 9 April, LTHT advised of the following:

Routine and planned requests already on the system until 22 June 2020

- These have been cancelled and returned to the referrer for clinical triage and revalidation of the request. A list has been provided to each GP practice that can be filtered by individual clinical referrer.
- Please note that Radiology have applied whatever non-clinical triage we can. However, we do not have adequate clinical information to prioritise and revalidate these requests any further. The Radiology information system is also not designed to safely hold this number of requests without actioning them, and therefore we ask Primary Care to support us with this task and apologise for not having communicated the rationale for this previously.
- **We therefore require primary care to complete clinical triage by adding a column to the spread sheet distributed to primary care entitled category and list a, b (please include an indication of when this should be scheduled) or c in line with the action required as below following review.** Please send back this information (in a batch as far as possible) an e-mail communication to m.heer@nhs.net or agata.wiorowska@nhs.net indicating which of the following categories the requests fall into:
 - a) The test is clinically urgent and needs doing during the pandemic (i.e. the risk of not undertaking the test outweighs the risk to the patient of coming to a COVID-affected hospital). Please highlight this as an 'urgent' request, and the existing ICE request will be updated by LTHT on the Radiology system with this information, and the patient will be appointed during the pandemic.
 - b) The test does not need completing within the pandemic (i.e. at present, this is taken to be until 22 June 2020) but needs undertaking at a later date, e.g. what was planned as a 3/12 follow-up scan can now be performed as a 6/12 planned scan. Please highlight this as a 'planned' request with what you would consider an acceptable clinical window after 22 June 2020 (e.g. within the following 3-months, 6-months, etc), and the existing ICE request will be updated by LTHT on the Radiology system with this information, and the patient will be appointed.

- c) The test is no longer required (e.g. the patient has got better, the test is no longer relevant, it is more appropriate for the patient to be re-assessed after the pandemic is over). The request has already been cancelled and no further action is required at this time.

The response to this request from LTHT to GP practices has been low. **To inform service planning for re-start of routine radiology, can GP practices please undertake the review and return this detail to the email addresses above by Friday 5 June.**

LTHT will re-issue these lists to practices to act as a further prompt. This task is really important to inform service re-start plans, as it is anticipated that radiology services will be operating at 50-60% activity levels due to social distancing and PPE constraints, when routine activities resume.

Non-Obstetric Ultrasound Service (NOUS)

We are pleased to advise that Yorkshire Health Solutions (YHS) commissioned by NHS Leeds, will be re-starting NOUS from 1 June 2020. Referral routes will be open on ERS via their Directory of Service from 1 June.

The service will be delivered from 5 sites across the city, as agreed with commissioners:

- Ireland Wood Surgery
- Horsforth Medical Centre
- Lingwell Croft
- Westgate Surgery in Otley
- North Leeds Dental Clinic

The service will aim to see all patients within 6 weeks. Appropriate protocols and PPE arrangements are in place. As referral volumes increase over the coming weeks/months, additional sites will be added. Practices are asked to ensure that urgent ultrasound requests are directed to LTHT.