

Faculty of Radiologists Specialist Training Programme in Radiation Oncology

Duties and Responsibilities of SpRs

YEAR 1 SpRs

It takes time to acquire both the knowledge and skills required in the field of radiation oncology to function independently. Year 1 SpRs are supervised by the consultant and/or more senior SpR to whose team they are attached for the period of placement. In addition by the Hospital Training Co-ordinator in their Radiotherapy Department

The following list serves as a guideline.

General Duties of year 1 SpRs:

Will attend Health & Safety courses in Radiotherapy Department and/or associated Hospital including

- Mandatory infection control course
- Corporate Induction course
- Manual Handling course
- 3 yearly ACLS courses
- Pre-employment Medical Questionnaire

General Clinical Duties:

- Will attend OPD clinics in their Radiotherapy Department under supervision at all times.
- Will attend weekly or twice weekly ward rounds with their teams,
- Will field phone calls from Doctors / paramedical staff and patients for the team

Specific Radiotherapy Duties:

- Will attend weekly lectures and planning meetings in their designated Radiotherapy Department, where they will be asked to participate in team case presentations
- Will attend weekly on treatment clinics



Not permitted to:

- Independently sign off palliative radiotherapy treatment on call during the 1st year until competency in palliative radiotherapy treatment has been obtained.
- Contour volumes or approve plan alone (apart from palliative after being signed off)
- Attend off site clinics alone
- Review IGRT images alone

Education & Training:

- Will attend the FFRCSI lecture course held on Wednesday afternoons for which they receive protected time.
- Will receive lectures during the September - June Academic year in
 - Physics,
 - Radio / Clinical Biology
 - Statistics
 - Pharmacology.
- Are required to attend at least 70% of all lectures. Feedback form will be used as a proof of attendance which should be submitted and kept in the faculty.
- Either the Hospital Training Co-ordinator (HTC) or Clinical Tutor could sign out their compliance with this requirement to allow them to apply to the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) London to sit the First FRCR / 1st FFRCSI
- Only the HTC is designated to sign out their training grants & application to attend courses and conferences.

On call duties Year 2-5:

By the end of year 1 SpRs are expected to undertake On Call duties including palliative radiotherapy treatment after being signed off palliative treatment according to a roster developed by the Chief SpR

This may include:

- After hours emergency simulation & RT dose prescription for emergency patients arriving after 5pm on weekdays
- All emergency simulations and treatments must be discussed with the consultant on call



- All emergency admissions must be discussed with the consultant on call
- Liaising with the SHO/team on call regarding any problems prior to departure from the hospital site
- On call from home from after departure from the Department until 9 am the following morning, i.e. being telephonically available to the SHO/team on site for advice regarding any in-patient, as well as being available to return to the hospital for any major problem that the SHO/team is unable to manage.
- Saturday ward rounds with the team on call, this may include assessment of any outpatients that have called by phone with an urgent problem.
- Emergency simulation & dose prescription will take place at this time 11-13.00 hrs
- After this call is off site
- Sunday may involve a ward round of problem patients only, (at the discretion of the SHO and Nursing staff on duty), as well as emergency simulation
- Bank holidays will be treated as Sundays
- The roster will be managed by the Chief SpR, referring back to the Hospital Training Co-ordinator, ensuring that the hours worked do not exceed the EU Working Time Directive
- Each team will be obliged to leave a handover list of problem patients on the ward and short summary of the relevant problem requiring their attention

YEAR 2 SpRs

At the end of Year 1 SpRs will be assessed for skills acquisition, depending on prior clinical experience and personal competence, to allow them to undertake the following duties:

General Clinical Duties:

They will continue as before to:

- Attend new patient assessment clinics
- Attend follow up OPD clinics
- Do twice weekly ward rounds with the team
- Have primary supervisory responsibility for the junior team members and report to their consultant
- Undertake general oncology second on call in their department, supervising SHOs on call in managing urgent medical patient care
- Discuss & organise urgent patient referrals to Radiotherapy Department with referring team members



Specific Radiotherapy Duties:

- Hand mark skin lesions for orthovoltage therapy (under supervision)
- Virtually simulate breast or pelvis plans independently
- Part CT plan independently
- Review IGRT images
- Sign / approve 3D plans as per competency assessments
- Attend On treatment (TBS) clinics
- Observe at least 3 HDR cervix brachytherapy procedures (from insertion to check CT to planning to treatment delivery) in year 2
- They will present at weekly planning Meeting

YEAR 3 SpRs

- Will be proficient in Vaginal Vault brachytherapy procedures
- Will be present to sign out Vaginal Vault brachytherapy treatments
- Should be able to insert & remove the HDR cervix applicators under supervision, & have a comprehensive understanding of the subsequent process

Education & Training:

- Will undertake Audit in the Department in conjunction with HTC / consultant and present at the ASM
- Are expected to attend weekly tutorials with tutors in preparation for the Final FFRRCSI, and are given protected time, at least 1 afternoon per week to do so



YEAR 4 SpRs

General Clinical duties:

- They will undertake the general organisation of the team. The level of responsibility will be at the discretion of the team consultant.
- Senior SpRs will be responsible for supervising the junior SpRs on the team.

They will continue as before to:

- Attend new patient assessment clinics
- Attend follow up OPD clinics
- Do twice weekly ward rounds with the team
- Supervise team in managing urgent medical patient care
- Discuss & organise urgent patient referrals to hospital with referring team members
- Maintain their medical oncology skills

General Radiotherapy Duties:

They should now be proficient in the following:-

- A wide range of areas in Radiation Oncology & able to function independently.
- 3D CRT and IMRT planning of general tumour sites and will be responsible for signing off selected radiotherapy plans
- Complex 3D brachytherapy in prostate and gynaecological malignancy
- SRS/ SABR treatment

Management & Teaching:

They will be expected to

- Participate in administration & work practice developments
- Participate in Risk Management Committees in the radiotherapy department
- Teach junior SpRs, SHOs, medical students, physicist, RTTs
- Undertake research (under supervision of Hospital Training Co-ordinator / supervising consultant)
- Undertake audit under supervision of the Hospital Training Co-ordinator / supervising consultant



YEAR 5 SpRs

- Year 5 SpRs will undertake a specialist subspecialty and modular training in addition to regular duties
- They will be expected to develop a specialist interest in a particular tumour sub-site and technological skills related to their area of interest
- They will be expected to gain detailed knowledge of current clinical & technical developments in their chosen sub-specialist interest
- They are expected to enhance their management and leadership skills

