



## *BNSSG System-wide Radiology*

24<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Colleague

### **Re: Routine Radiology Referrals**

This letter is to advise you that with effect from **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020 routine requests for Radiological investigations will reopen** in the Imaging departments at North Bristol NHS Trust and University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust.

Patients referred after this date will be added to the waiting lists at each Trust, however please be aware that there is currently no timeline for the scheduling of routine activity.

We continue to prioritise available capacity for cancer and urgent referrals, which will be followed by prioritisation to clear the extensive backlog of patients that has accumulated over the last 3 months. Please note that there are capacity issues affecting all imaging modalities at all hospital sites.

We would very much value your help in managing patient expectations regarding waiting times at the time of requesting the test. Once the full extent of the waiting list is visible, we will endeavour to advise you on expected waiting times for examinations. In the meantime, we would ask that you advise your patients of the current situation and ask them not to contact the Radiology departments directly regarding their place on the waiting list, as this will divert administrative resource away from making appointments and will add further delay into the system.

Work is on-going in relation to demand management and it may be possible that following this piece of work, the thresholds for certain diagnostic examinations are changed. This could result in some requests being removed from the waiting list and returned to the referrer. As a system we are doing everything possible to use all available imaging capacity in the region, including independent sector options, but there will be significantly less capacity than before COVID.

As you will be aware from the letter sent by the three Trusts on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020, outlining the capacity shortfalls that now exist in the system, we are working collaboratively with Primary and Secondary Care referrers to optimise clinical pathways. This is to ensure safe, effective and best use of the imaging capacity available to the system.



If any of your patients re-present with new or exacerbated symptoms and you wish to amend the urgency of your referral, please contact the relevant department using the contact details below, and include any relevant additional clinical information.

**NBT:** 0117 414 9110 (for urgent enquiries) or email: [nbn-tr.radiologygpqueries@nhs](mailto:nbn-tr.radiologygpqueries@nhs).

**UH Bristol:** [ubh-tr.radiologyadminbri@nhs.net](mailto:ubh-tr.radiologyadminbri@nhs.net) (Adults) or [ubh-tr.RadiologyAdminBRHC@nhs.net](mailto:ubh-tr.RadiologyAdminBRHC@nhs.net) (Paediatrics)

**Weston General:** 01934 647 203 or email [Wnt-tr.radiologysecretaries@nhs.net](mailto:Wnt-tr.radiologysecretaries@nhs.net)

Kind regards,

**Dr Alison Wint**

Co-Chair of the  
Diagnostics Cell

Clinical Lead for Cancer  
& Specialised  
Commissioning

**Dr Rommel Ravanan**

Co-Chair of the  
Diagnostics Cell

Divisional Clinical  
Director for Core Clinical  
Services NBT &  
Consultant Nephrologist

**Dr Martin Jones**

Chair of Clinical Cabinet  
and Primary Care Cell

Medical Director -  
Commissioning & Primary  
Care BNSSG CCG