

Principles underpinning the delivery of cancer care outside of cancer centres (or usual designated place of care) during the current novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

It is acknowledged that at times aspects of the cancer patient pathway will need to be delivered in alternative locations. This could be due to specific resource issues, e.g. ICU or theatre capacity, or other challenges in maintaining the non-COVID pathway in the usual place of care.

Where this need arises, clear governance arrangements must be put in place and every effort made to ensure continuity of patient care. The following principles should apply:

- Patients continue to have their case discussed at the multidisciplinary team meeting
- Images/slides from diagnostic tests carried out elsewhere are available and reviewed at multidisciplinary team meetings. A recommendation should be sought from the tumour MDT as to the need for repatriation of gross pathology specimens to NCCP designated cancer centre pathology departments. Where this is considered best practice by the MDT, this should be followed and supported by a robust system for transport of specimens.
- Patients have access to the full range of multidisciplinary specialist care, as if they had received their treatment at the NCCP designated cancer centre/ usual designated treatment centre
- A clear pathway for pre and post-procedure care (including unscheduled care) is agreed with the treating centres and communicated to patients and their carers
- A system is in place to facilitate the collection of key performance indicators and for review of quality of care