

NHS England and NHS Improvement: Equality and Health Inequalities Impact Assessment (EHIA) template

A completed copy of this form must be provided to the decision-makers in relation to your proposal. The decision-makers must consider the results of this assessment when they make their decision about your proposal.

- 1. Name of the proposal (policy, proposition, programme, proposal or initiative)¹:** Paediatric Photon Radiotherapy services - Sub-heading: Paediatric Photon (Conventional photon beam) External Beam Radiotherapy Services
- 2. Brief summary of the proposal in a few sentences**

The Service Specification covers the provision of Paediatric Photon Radiotherapy Services for children, including adolescents, aged 0 to 16th birthday for whom radiotherapy is an appropriate clinical treatment are eligible for referral to the Service. Childhood cancer is rare and accounts for less than 1% of all cancer diagnoses in the UK. There are around 1,800 new cancer cases in children cancer cases in the UK every year, (2016-2018). Over the last decade, incidence rates for cancers in young people have remained stable in the UK. There are circa 58 diagnostic groups of childhood cancer.

Paediatric radiotherapy is a tertiary service accessed only by referral from an appropriate specialist Paediatric Oncologist based within an NHS England commissioned Paediatric Principal Treatment Centre (PTC). It cannot be directly accessed from primary care.

The proposed Service Specification builds on the existing service specifications for Adult Radiotherapy and Children's Cancer Principal Treatment Centres (PTC), detailing the standards of care expected to be provided to children requiring photon radiotherapy and underpinned by a new Specialised Services Quality Dashboard. Together, these will support improved outcomes and experience of care for this age cohort.

¹ Proposal: We use the term proposal in the remainder of this template to cover the terms initiative, policy, proposition, proposal or programme.

The specification sets clear service standards for photon services and by putting in place a mechanism to monitor delivery of key outcome and quality standards, the specification is supporting the continued delivery of high quality photon radiotherapy, even as activity reduces as a consequence of a shift towards Proton Beam Therapy (PBT) as the dominant form of radiotherapy in this age range, because it offers quality of life advantages.

It is also important to set parameters for providers to navigate the transition to a new, lower level of activity. It is for this reason the specification includes the flexibility to enter into partnership arrangements with neighboring services, maximising the scarce paediatric clinical oncology workforce and preserving access for patients and their families, as close to home as possible. This approach will address single handed practice where it exists, enable cross-cover of consultant leave, joint radiotherapy MDT / planning meetings and enable greater collaboration between clinical teams to drive improvements in treatment plan quality to support improved access to clinical trials.

3. Main potential positive or adverse impact of the proposal for protected characteristic groups summarised

Please briefly summarise the main potential impact (positive or negative) on people with the nine protected characteristics (as listed below). Please state **N/A** if your proposal will not impact adversely or positively on the protected characteristic groups listed below. Please note that these groups may also experience health inequalities.

The Service Specification is not considered to prejudice any particular group with protected characteristics. It aims to deliver age appropriate care, in age appropriate settings.

Protected characteristic groups	Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact of your proposal	Main recommendation from your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact
<p>Age: older people; middle years; early years; children and young people.</p>	<p>The Service Specification covers children aged 0 up to their 16th birthday.</p> <p>The key standards include:</p>	<p>The specification sets clear service standards for photon services and puts in place a mechanism to monitor delivery of key outcome and quality standards to support improved outcomes and experience of care for this age cohort. The</p>

Protected characteristic groups	Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact of your proposal	Main recommendation from your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Operating in close alignment with, and be located within, the same geography (a city) as a PTC. 2. Providing the full range of conventional radiotherapy treatments (radical, palliative and Total Body Irradiation [TBI]). 3. Paediatric Clinical Oncologists that are integrated as core members of the paediatric oncology MDTs and, where appropriate to an individual’s clinical practice, also the children’s haematopoietic stem cell transplantation MDT (for TBI), involving a wide range of specialists responsible for determining and delivering whole pathway care plans for all children with cancer. 4. Access to a paediatric anaesthetic service, including on-site paediatric resuscitation and critically ill transport services, if the CRT Provider is not co-located with paediatric critical care provision. 5. Participation in peer review of contours and plans for all radical treatments. 6. Has access to paediatric medical, nursing and allied healthcare support 	<p>standards are based on the published RCR Good Practice Guide</p> <p>The specification sets the parameters for providers to navigate the transition to a new, lower level of activity and includes the flexibility to enter into partnership arrangements with neighboring services maximising the scarce paediatric clinical oncology workforce and preserving access for patients and their families, as close to home as possible.</p>

Protected characteristic groups	Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact of your proposal	Main recommendation from your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact
	<p>It includes the flexibility to enter into partnership arrangements with neighboring services maximising the scarce paediatric clinical oncology workforce and preserving access for patients and their families, as close to home as possible.</p> <p>It details the standards of care expected to be provided to children requiring photon radiotherapy and is underpinned by a new Specialised Services Quality Dashboard. Together, these will support improved outcomes and experience of care for this age cohort.</p>	
<p>Disability: physical, sensory and learning impairment; mental health condition; long-term conditions.</p>	<p>Following a diagnosis of cancer, the individual is defined as having a disability under the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>The proposed Service Specification aims to improve the quality of care and clinical outcomes for all children treated with conventional photon radiotherapy.</p> <p>The specification sets the parameters for providers to navigate the transition to a new, lower level of activity and includes the flexibility</p>	<p>The introduction of a Quality Dashboard and a Quality Improvement Framework will support clinical teams and the relevant Operational Delivery Networks to monitor and improve outcomes over time.</p>

Protected characteristic groups	Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact of your proposal	Main recommendation from your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact
	<p>to enter into partnership arrangements with neighboring services maximising the scarce paediatric clinical oncology workforce and preserving access for patients and their families, as close to home as possible.</p> <p>The Service Specification will have a positive impact on this (protected characteristic) group.</p>	
<p>Gender Reassignment and/or people who identify as Transgender</p>	<p>The proposed Service Specification aims to improve clinical outcomes and experience of care for Service Users treated with photon radiotherapy.</p> <p>The specification sets the parameters for providers to navigate the transition to a new, lower level of activity and includes the flexibility to enter into partnership arrangements with neighboring services maximising the scarce paediatric clinical oncology workforce and preserving access for patients and their families, as close to home as possible.</p> <p>The Service Specification will not have any positive or adverse impact on this (+/-protected characteristic) group.</p>	<p>The Service Specification is aligned to published Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) Guidelines to support improved outcomes and experience of care for this age cohort.</p>

Protected characteristic groups	Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact of your proposal	Main recommendation from your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact
<p>Marriage & Civil Partnership: people married or in a civil partnership.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<p>Pregnancy and Maternity: women before and after childbirth and who are breastfeeding.</p>	<p>The proposed Service Specification aims to improve clinical outcomes and experience of care for Service Users treated with conventional radiotherapy.</p> <p>The specification sets the parameters for providers to navigate the transition to a new, lower level of activity and includes the flexibility to enter into partnership arrangements with neighboring services maximising the scarce paediatric clinical oncology workforce and preserving access for patients and their families, as close to home as possible.</p> <p>The Service Specification will not have any positive or adverse impact on this (+/-protected characteristic) group.</p>	<p>The Service Specification is aligned to published Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) Guidelines to support improved outcomes and experience of care for this age cohort.</p>

Protected characteristic groups	Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact of your proposal	Main recommendation from your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact
Race and ethnicity²	<p>The proposed Service Specification aims to improve clinical outcomes and experience of care for Service Users treated with conventional radiotherapy.</p> <p>The specification sets the parameters for providers to navigate the transition to a new, lower level of activity and includes the flexibility to enter into partnership arrangements with neighboring services maximising the scarce paediatric clinical oncology workforce and preserving access for patients and their families, as close to home as possible.</p> <p>The Service Specification will not have any positive or adverse impact on this (+/-protected characteristic) group.</p>	<p>The Service Specification is aligned to published RCR Guidelines to support improved outcomes and experience of care for this age cohort.</p>
Religion and belief: people with different religions/faiths or beliefs, or none.	<p>The proposed Service Specification aims to improve clinical outcomes and experience of care for Service Users treated with conventional radiotherapy.</p>	<p>The Service Specification is aligned to published RCR Guidelines to support improved outcomes and experience of care for this age cohort.</p>

² Addressing racial inequalities is about identifying any ethnic group that experiences inequalities. Race and ethnicity includes people from any ethnic group incl. BME communities, non-English speakers, Gypsies, Roma and Travelers, migrants etc.. who experience inequalities so includes addressing the needs of BME communities but is not limited to addressing their needs, it is equally important to recognise the needs of White groups that experience inequalities. The Equality Act 2010 also prohibits discrimination on the basis of nationality and ethnic or national origins, issues related to national origin and nationality.

Protected characteristic groups	Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact of your proposal	Main recommendation from your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact
	<p>The specification sets the parameters for providers to navigate the transition to a new, lower level of activity and includes the flexibility to enter into partnership arrangements with neighboring services maximising the scarce paediatric clinical oncology workforce and preserving access for patients and their families, as close to home as possible.</p> <p>The Service Specification will not have any positive or adverse impact on this (+/-protected characteristic) group.</p>	
<p>Sex: men; women</p>	<p>The proposed Service Specification aims to improve clinical outcomes and experience of care for Service Users treated with conventional radiotherapy.</p> <p>The specification sets the parameters for providers to navigate the transition to a new, lower level of activity and includes the flexibility to enter into partnership arrangements with neighboring services maximising the scarce paediatric clinical oncology workforce and preserving access for patients and their families, as close to home as possible.</p>	<p>The Service Specification is aligned to published RCR Guidelines to support improved outcomes and experience of care for this age cohort.</p>

Protected characteristic groups	Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact of your proposal	Main recommendation from your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact
	The Service Specification will not have any positive or adverse impact on this (+/-protected characteristic) group.	
Sexual orientation: Lesbian; Gay; Bisexual; Heterosexual.	<p>The proposed Service Specification aims to improve clinical outcomes and experience of care for Service Users treated with conventional radiotherapy.</p> <p>The specification sets the parameters for providers to navigate the transition to a new, lower level of activity and includes the flexibility to enter into partnership arrangements with neighboring services maximising the scarce paediatric clinical oncology workforce and preserving access for patients and their families, as close to home as possible.</p> <p>The Service Specification will not have any positive or adverse impact on this (+/-protected characteristic) group.</p>	The Service Specification is aligned to published RCR Guidelines to support improved outcomes and experience of care for this age cohort.

4. Main potential positive or adverse impact for people who experience health inequalities summarised

Please briefly summarise the main potential impact (positive or negative) on people at particular risk of health inequalities (as listed below). Please state **N/A if your proposal will not impact on patients who experience health inequalities.**

This proposal will not impact adversely or positively on the protected characteristic groups listed below.

Groups who face health inequalities³	Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact of your proposal	Main recommendation from your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact
Looked after children and young people	<p>The proposed Service Specification aims to improve clinical outcomes and experience of care for Service Users treated with conventional radiotherapy.</p> <p>The specification sets the parameters for providers to navigate the transition to a new, lower level of activity and includes the flexibility to enter into partnership arrangements with neighboring services maximising the scarce paediatric clinical oncology workforce and preserving access for patients and their families, as close to home as possible.</p> <p>The Service Specification will have a positive on this (+ protected characteristic) group.</p>	<p>The Service Specification is aligned to published RCR Good Practice Guidelines to support improved outcomes and experience of care for this age cohort.</p>
Carers of patients: unpaid, family members.	<p>The proposed Service Specification aims to improve clinical outcomes and experience of care for Service Users treated with conventional radiotherapy.</p> <p>The specification sets the parameters for providers to navigate the transition</p>	<p>The Service Specification is aligned to published RCR Good Practice Guidelines to support improved outcomes and experience of care for this age cohort.</p>

³ Please note many groups who share protected characteristics have also been identified as facing health inequalities.

Groups who face health inequalities ³	Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact of your proposal	Main recommendation from your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact
	<p>to a new, lower level of activity and includes the flexibility to enter into partnership arrangements with neighboring services maximising the scarce paediatric clinical oncology workforce and preserving access for patients and their families, as close to home as possible.</p> <p>The Service Specification will not have any positive or adverse impact on this (+/-protected characteristic) group.</p>	
<p>Homeless people. People on the street; staying temporarily with friends /family; in hostels or B&Bs.</p>	<p>The proposed Service Specification aims to improve clinical outcomes and experience of care for Service Users treated with conventional radiotherapy.</p> <p>The specification sets the parameters for providers to navigate the transition to a new, lower level of activity and includes the flexibility to enter into partnership arrangements with neighboring services maximising the scarce paediatric clinical oncology workforce and preserving access for patients and their families, as close to home as possible.</p>	<p>The Service Specification is aligned to published RCR Good Practice Guidelines to support improved outcomes and experience of care for this age cohort.</p>

Groups who face health inequalities ³	Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact of your proposal	Main recommendation from your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact
	The Service Specification will not have any positive or adverse impact on this (+/-protected characteristic) group.	
People involved in the criminal justice system: offenders in prison/on probation, ex-offenders.	<p>Paediatric photon radiotherapy is an acute hospital service for treating children and adolescents, up to their 16th birthday, who have cancer.</p> <p>The specification will not have any positive or adverse impact on people involved in the criminal justice system.</p>	The Service Specification is aligned to published RCR Good Practice Guidelines to support improved outcomes and experience of care for this age cohort.
People with addictions and/or substance misuse issues	<p>Children’s radiotherapy is an acute hospital service for treating children, up to their 16th birthday, who have cancer.</p> <p>The Service Specification will not have any positive or adverse impact on people with addictions and/or substance misuse issues.</p>	The Service Specification is aligned to published RCR Good Practice Guidelines to support improved outcomes and experience of care for this age cohort.
People or families on a low income	<p>The proposed Service Specification aims to improve clinical outcomes and experience of care for Service Users treated with conventional radiotherapy.</p> <p>The specification sets the parameters for providers to navigate the transition to a new, lower level of activity and includes the flexibility to enter into</p>	The Service Specification is aligned to published RCR Good Practice Guidelines to support improved outcomes and experience of care for this age cohort.

Groups who face health inequalities ³	Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact of your proposal	Main recommendation from your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact
	<p>partnership arrangements with neighboring services maximising the scarce paediatric clinical oncology workforce and preserving access for patients and their families, as close to home as possible.</p> <p>The Service Specification will not have any positive or adverse impact on this.</p>	
<p>People with poor literacy or health Literacy: (e.g. poor understanding of health services poor language skills).</p>	<p>The proposed Service Specification aims to improve clinical outcomes and experience of care for Service Users treated with conventional radiotherapy.</p> <p>The specification sets the parameters for providers to navigate the transition to a new, lower level of activity and includes the flexibility to enter into partnership arrangements with neighboring services maximising the scarce paediatric clinical oncology workforce and preserving access for patients and their families, as close to home as possible.</p> <p>The Service Specification will not have any positive or adverse impact on this.</p>	<p>The Service Specification is aligned to published RCR Good Practice Guidelines to support improved outcomes and experience of care for this age cohort.</p>

Groups who face health inequalities ³	Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact of your proposal	Main recommendation from your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact
People living in deprived areas	<p>The proposed Service Specification aims to improve clinical outcomes and experience of care for Service Users treated with conventional radiotherapy.</p> <p>The specification sets the parameters for providers to navigate the transition to a new, lower level of activity and includes the flexibility to enter into partnership arrangements with neighboring services maximising the scarce paediatric clinical oncology workforce and preserving access for patients and their families, as close to home as possible.</p> <p>The Service Specification will not have any positive or adverse impact on this.</p>	<p>The Service Specification is aligned to published RCR Good Practice Guidelines to support improved outcomes and experience of care for this age cohort.</p>
People living in remote, rural and island locations	<p>The Service Specification aims to address this by;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Detailing the standards of care expected to be provided to children requiring photon radiotherapy and is underpinned by a new Specialised Services Quality Dashboard. Together, these will support 	<p>The Service Specification is aligned to published RCR Good Practice Guidelines to support improved outcomes and experience of care for this age cohort.</p>

Groups who face health inequalities ³	Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact of your proposal	Main recommendation from your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact
	<p>improved outcomes and experience of care for this age cohort.</p> <p>2. Setting the parameters for providers to navigate the transition to a new, lower level of activity and includes the flexibility to enter into partnership arrangements with neighbouring services maximising the scarce paediatric clinical oncology workforce and preserving access for patients and their families, as close to home as possible.</p> <p>3. Describes participation in the process of peer review of contours and radiotherapy planning for all radical treatments.</p>	
<p>Refugees, asylum seekers or those experiencing modern slavery</p>	<p>The proposed Service Specification aims to improve clinical outcomes and experience of care for Service Users treated with conventional radiotherapy.</p> <p>The specification sets the parameters for providers to navigate the transition to a new, lower level of activity and includes the flexibility to enter into</p>	<p>The Service Specification is aligned to published RCR Good Practice Guidelines to support improved outcomes and experience of care for this age cohort.</p>

Groups who face health inequalities ³	Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact of your proposal	Main recommendation from your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact
	partnership arrangements with neighboring services maximising the scarce paediatric clinical oncology workforce and preserving access for patients and their families, as close to home as possible. The Service Specification will not have any positive or adverse impact on this (+/-protected characteristic) group.	
Other groups experiencing health inequalities (please describe)	As above.	The Service Specification is aligned to published RCR Good Practice Guidelines to support improved outcomes and experience of care for this age cohort.

5. Engagement and consultation

a. Have any key engagement or consultative activities been undertaken that considered how to address equalities issues or reduce health inequalities? Please place an x in the appropriate box below.

Yes X	No	Do Not Know
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b. If yes, please briefly list up the top 3 most important engagement or consultation activities undertaken, the main findings and when the engagement and consultative activities were undertaken.

Name of engagement and consultative activities undertaken	Summary note of the engagement or consultative activity undertaken	Month/Year
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1	Input from the Radiotherapy and Children's and Young Person CRGs	The Specification working Group included representation from the wider multi-professional children's cancer clinical team.	June 2022
2	Initial stakeholder feedback from NHS England's regional teams	One-week stakeholder engagement with NHS England's regional teams via the Directors of Commissioning	September 2022
3	Stakeholder engagement	Two-week stakeholder engagement with key stakeholders as per NHS England's methods June/July 2022.	December 2022

6. What key sources of evidence have informed your impact assessment and are there key gaps in the evidence?

Evidence Type	Key sources of available evidence	Key gaps in evidence
Published evidence	Most recent professional standards for Children's Radiotherapy published by Royal College of Radiologists (2018).	Not applicable
Consultation and involvement findings	Clinical Advisory Group/ Children's Radiotherapy Steering Board.	Not applicable.
Research	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Participant or expert knowledge For example, expertise within the team or expertise drawn on external to your team	Service Specification Working Group established, with senior clinicians from the existing children's radiotherapy providers in England. Membership included representatives from the whole paediatric radiotherapy multi-disciplinary team.	Not applicable.

7. Is your assessment that your proposal will support compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty? Please add an x to the relevant box below.

	Tackling discrimination	Advancing equality of opportunity	Fostering good relations
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The proposal will support?	Not applicable	X	X
The proposal may support?			
Uncertain whether the proposal will support?			

8. Is your assessment that your proposal will support reducing health inequalities faced by patients? Please add an x to the relevant box below.

	Reducing inequalities in access to health care	Reducing inequalities in health outcomes
The proposal will support?		
The proposal may support?	X	X
Uncertain if the proposal will support?		

9. Outstanding key issues/questions that may require further consultation, research or additional evidence. Please list your top 3 in order of priority or state N/A

Key issue or question to be answered	Type of consultation, research or other evidence that would address the issue and/or answer the question
1 Not applicable.	
2	
3	

10. Summary assessment of this EHIA findings

Eight responses were received from professional groups, organisations and charities involved in children’s radiotherapy care. The feedback was positive with stakeholders registering their broad support for the service specification requirements and standards and noted its expected positive impact in driving improvements in quality and safety. One comment was received on the content of the EHIA which resulted in a change to the Pregnancy and Maternity section noting that pregnancy status is relevant from the age of 12 onwards.

11. Contact details re this EHIA

Team/Unit name:	Specification Working Group
Division name:	
Directorate name:	Specialised Commissioning
Date EHIA agreed:	
Date EHIA published if appropriate:	