

Update from Alison Jones, GP Engagement

First patient treated at SaTH with revolutionary type of radiotherapy

The first patient has been treated at the Trust with a revolutionary type of radiotherapy that will bring benefits for those undergoing treatment.

SABR (Stereotactic Ablative Radiotherapy) is a treatment for early-stage lung tumours. It delivers an extremely high dose of radiation and targets the tumour more precisely than other radiotherapy treatments. As it is treating a smaller area it limits the effect on other healthy organs such as the spinal cord, heart and the healthy part of the lung.

SABR treatment also cuts back on the number of radiotherapy treatments a patient has to have – reducing it from 20 treatments, delivered daily, to just 5 treatments, given every other day.

Hayley Flavell, Director of Nursing at SaTH, said: **“Congratulations to the SABR radiotherapy team for successfully treating their first patient. It has taken determination and many years of hard work to get to this stage and it is fantastic to see the team so focused on new ways of delivering care that will bring real benefits for the patients we serve.”**

Extensive work was carried out by a multidisciplinary SABR team over many years before it could treat the first patient. The team included oncologists, radiologists, dosimetrists, radiographers and nurses and other dedicated members of the radiotherapy team at SaTH.

Approval for the use of SABR at SaTH was given the go-ahead earlier this year and one patient has now successfully received a course of SABR treatment with minimal side effects.

Louise Killey, Radiotherapy Services Manager at SaTH, said: **“In radiotherapy we always have to allow a margin around a tumour because of patients moving. Radiation damages both cancerous and healthy cells so if we can reduce the area being treated then it can help with both the short-term and long-term side effects.**

“With SABR the treatment concentrates on reducing the margins and we can treat just the tumour and less healthy tissue.”

Louise added that SABR can only treat early-stage lung tumours, so it is important that if people have any concerns that they seek help. **“The earlier we find a cancer the more likely we are able to cure patients.”**

The team at SaTH is hoping in the future that SABR treatment can also be used on other areas of the body.

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Spotlight on Advanced Clinical Practitioners at the Trust

The Trust celebrated part of its pioneering workforce during Advanced Practice Week which ran from 8 to 12 November.

Advanced Clinical Practitioners (ACPs) support medical teams across the whole spectrum of medical, surgical, paediatric services and urgent and emergency care within the Trust and throughout the week SaTH highlighted some of the valuable roles the ACPs play, through its social media channels.

ACPs within the Trust come from diverse clinical backgrounds including nursing, allied health professions such as physiotherapy and paramedic science, with SaTH currently employing 48 ACPs across a variety of specialties including medicine, paediatrics, emergency medicine, surgery and intensive care. Next year will also see the first Consultant ACP roles in acute medicine.

Hayley Flavell, Director of Nursing at the Trust, said: **“The spotlight is on our ACPs during Advanced Practice Week and we want to recognise the tremendous contribution they make to the care that our patients at SaTH receive.**

“Right across our hospitals and in a whole range of services, ACPs are a crucial part of the team here and we couldn’t do what we do without them. I hope this week helps to highlight to a wider audience their valuable work and the vital role they play in caring for the communities we serve.”

Dr Amruta Lacy-Colson, Consultant Lead for the ACP Team at SaTH, said: **“I can speak on behalf of all my colleagues in respiratory, and the wider medical physician workforce, when I say that our ACPs have been absolutely vital to the running of our departments. They have provided a high calibre service looking after patients and provided services that otherwise would have had to have been pared back during the COVID-19 pandemic. My thanks to all of you.**

“A special thank you also goes out to all the Consultant ACP supervisors and mentors as without them this programme would not have been possible.”

The first ACP role at SaTH was established in January 2014 within Acute Medicine, shortly followed by a trainee role in the Emergency Department (ED). These initial roles paved the way for a pioneering workforce and brought ambition and innovation to the clinical workplace.

In 2014 Emma Jones, Trust Lead ACP, and Dr Lacy-Colson established a solid and structured career path for all non-medical professionals who wanted to remain in patient-facing positions. To date, SaTH has been pivotal in supporting more than 45 ACPs on their path to achieving a Masters qualification in Advanced Clinical Practice. In addition, all trainees complete a clinical curriculum which consists of core and specialty-specific competencies. The curricula have been developed, led and delivered within the Trust to ensure ACPs have a solid foundation to enter qualified roles.

Looking to the future for ACPs at SaTH, advance curricula have been designed and implemented for further ACP development.

SaTH now supports training starting at a Band 6 ACP development post through to a formal Consultant ACP training programme where Acute Medicine will see the first of these Consultant ACP roles in 2022.

Please keep an eye out for case studies highlighting the variety of ACP roles within the Trust on our social media channels: Facebook */ShrewsburyandTelfordNHS* Twitter *@sathNHS* and Insta *@sathnhs*

Celebrating World Radiography day – and some interesting facts and figures

The Trust has been recognising the great work of our radiology teams as World Radiography Day was celebrated on 8 November. This is an annual event and marks the anniversary of the discovery of X-rays by Wilhelm Roentgen in 1895.

This year is particularly special as the Day looked at how radiographers have come together during the COVID-19 crisis and the important role that they play within the NHS. Radiographers worldwide can use the day to promote radiography as a career, as a vital contribution to modern healthcare, and as an opportunity to increase public awareness of diagnostic imaging and radiation therapy.

Here at the Trust, radiology and imaging services provide CT, MRI and ultrasound scanning, nuclear medicine imaging and plain film examinations to the A&E, inpatient, outpatient and GP community as well as mammography symptomatic and breast screening services.

The team consists of:

- ◆ 66 Radiographers and Senior Radiographers
- ◆ 11 Superintendent Radiographers
- ◆ 7 Advanced Practice reporting Radiographers
- ◆ 23 reporting Ultrasonographers
- ◆ 3 Consultant Radiographers
- ◆ 10 Assistant Practitioners
- ◆ 3 apprentice Radiographers and student Radiographers who come on placement.



The Radiography team is supported by:

- ◆ 21 Consultant Radiologists
- ◆ 44 imaging assistants
- ◆ A radiology systems team
- ◆ An administration and clerical team.

Here are some interesting facts about the imaging that the team carried out in 2020/21 – taking into account the additional cleaning regimes and social distancing put in place for COVID-19:

- ◆ 101,790 plain film X-rays, using static and mobile digital equipment – that is nearly 2,000 X-rays per week
- ◆ 41,862 CT scans – over 800 CT scans per week
- ◆ 39,465 ultrasound scans – over 750 ultrasound scans per week
- ◆ 1,548 Nuclear Medicine scans
- ◆ 3,092 interventional and fluoroscopy procedures.

Construction work begins on new ward at RSH

Work began on the construction of a new 32-bed modular ward at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital at the beginning of November. This new ward will deliver much needed additional bed capacity and support to the Trust's services and is situated adjacent to the Treatment Centre, to be used by the Trust's surgical teams for emergency patients. It is due for completion in March 2022, and will help to alleviate some of the emergency pressures being felt across the organisation and also support the Trust to restore more elective surgery.

CQC reports progress at SaTH since last inspection

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has reported progress across key areas and services at the Trust, while the Trust remains rated as 'inadequate' overall.

Following an inspection in July and August 2021, two of the five domains previously rated as 'inadequate' are now rated as 'requires improvement'. At a more detailed level, in terms of the core services inspected within the Trust, 16 of the ratings improved since the last inspection.

There were several areas identified in the inspection where action and improvement are still needed, including the provision of end of life care, practice in respect of infection prevention and control, record keeping and storage, and vacancies in key areas.

The report also recognised that the Trust had made progress across a number of key areas, with the CQC noting:

- ◆ "Outstanding practice" was reported, with midwifery staff showing immense levels of resilience as they were able to continue to provide high levels of care to women and babies and maintained a positive and caring attitude during extremely challenging circumstances.
- ◆ Staff provided emotional support to patients, families and carers to minimise their distress.
- ◆ Actions were being taken to recruit nursing, medical staff, and effective leaders.
- ◆ All staff were committed to continually learning and improving services.
- ◆ Staff were focused on the needs of patients receiving care and there was an open culture where patients, their families and staff could raise concerns.
- ◆ Women in maternity were treated with compassion and kindness, had their privacy and dignity respected, and account was taken of their individual needs.

Louise Barnett, Chief Executive at SaTH said, **"We welcome the CQC inspection report. The report identifies meaningful progress in the Trust, but also shows that more work is required to improve the services we deliver for our communities, and we have plans in place to achieve this.**

"In incredibly difficult circumstances, progress has been made in key areas and much has been done to improve the way we work and deliver care. Our team has shown enormous dedication and commitment and I want to thank them for their exceptionally hard work to bring about these positive changes.

"However, the report also reinforces the amount there is still to do on the Trust's improvement journey. We are determined to build on this progress and use this, and the report, as a stepping stone to provide excellent care across all our services for patients and families in our communities."

The CQC inspected four areas and services – urgent and emergency care, medical care, and end of life care at both the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital, and maternity services at the Princess Royal Hospital – as well as undertaking a 'well-led' inspection for the Trust overall.