

Frequently Asked Questions- Radiotherapy Satellite Centre

Question:

1. What is the Transforming Cancer Services Programme?

In 2015, Velindre University NHS Trust established the Transforming Cancer Services in South East Wales Programme. The programme's objectives are to:

- Provide patients and carers with quality services that deliver optimal outcomes
- Deliver sustainable cancer services to the population in the most effective way
- Be a leader in education, research, development and innovation
- Comply with relevant standards

2. Why are you building a Radiotherapy Satellite Centre?

We believe a Radiotherapy Satellite Centre is required for to improve cancer care in South East Wales because:

- The demand for radiotherapy is predicted to increase and there is a need for an increased number of linacs from 8 to 10
- Clinical outcomes for cancer patients in Wales are worse than in many other countries in Europe
- There is a poor patient experience for patients who have to travel a long way for radiotherapy, usually daily and sometimes for many weeks
- We wish to deliver care more locally where possible
- We can treat more patients in clinical trials
- A networked model – which means a central hub like Velindre Cancer Centre and satellites such as the one at Neville Hall Hospital – is used by leading cancer centres around the world to deliver good patient outcomes
- Some patients are not receiving radiotherapy treatment when they could benefit from it

3. Why has Nevill Hall Hospital been chosen as the site for the Radiotherapy Satellite Centre?

A standard consultation process was followed to identify the most appropriate site for the Radiotherapy Satellite Centre in South East Wales.

All Health Boards in South East Wales were asked if they would like to host the centre. Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board expressed an interest in hosting the centre.

The process identified that Nevill Hall Hospital at Abergavenny was the preferred choice as its location in the south east Wales region would mean all people needing either the Velindre Cancer Centre or the Radiotherapy Satellite Centre would be within a 45 minute travel distance or less from each centre, which supports the travel distance guidance recommended by the Royal College of Radiologists.

4. What will be offered at the Radiotherapy Satellite Centre?

- 2 radiotherapy treatment machines (Linacs)
- A CT Simulator for radiotherapy planning scans
- Clinic review rooms
- Dedicated parking including a drop off zone at the Centre

5. What cancers will be treated at the Radiotherapy Satellite Centre?

The Satellite centre will start with treating prostate, breast and palliative care patients. Palliative care patients may experience the most discomfort with the long travel times to Velindre Cancer Centre and so it is hoped that the Radiotherapy Satellite Centre will reduce this discomfort.

Breast and prostate cancer patients generally tolerate radiotherapy well and need the least input from doctors during their radiotherapy. In the future the plan is to treat other types of cancers there too.

6. How many people will the satellite benefit?

It is anticipated that every year, the Satellite Centre will provide approximately:

- 3,000 radiotherapy planning appointments
- 1,000 new patients starting radiotherapy
- 9,500 treatment appointments

7. How does the Radiotherapy Satellite Centre link with Velindre Cancer Centre?

Both Centres will provide a range of radiotherapy treatments. The Satellite Centre will initially treat patients with prostate and breast cancers, and those having radiotherapy to improve cancer symptoms who may particularly benefit from having treatment closer to home. Patients with other cancers may have radiotherapy at the Satellite Centre in the future.

Staff working in the Radiotherapy Satellite Centre will rotate regularly with working in Velindre Cancer Centre to ensure consistency in care.

8. How will it be decided which patients go there?

As mentioned in Question 5, the Satellite Centre will start with treating prostate, breast and palliative care patients. The Centre will be for patients who live nearer to the facility than to Velindre Cancer centre.

People living in Abergavenny, Ebbw Vale, Merthyr, Monmouth, Usk, Cwmbran and Chepstow, as well as Brecon, Crickhowell and Builth Wells will benefit most from reduced travel times.

9. What if I prefer to go to Velindre Cancer Centre for my treatment?

You will be able to continue receiving your treatment at Velindre Cancer Centre if this is your preferred option.

10. Will I be able to have all my cancer treatment at Nevill Hall Hospital including chemotherapy?

Velindre Cancer Centre already sees and treats cancer patients at Nevill Hall Hospital with chemotherapy and is working with Aneurin Bevan Health board to increase the amount of chemotherapy that can be given at the hospital in Abergavenny.

When the Radiotherapy Satellite Centre is built the aim will be that many patients will be able to have their outpatient appointments, their chemotherapy treatment and their radiotherapy treatment at Nevill Hall Hospital. For some specialised treatments patients may however, still need to attend Velindre Cancer Centre.

11. Will the Radiotherapy Satellite Centre just be for Aneurin Bevan Patients?

No. The Satellite Centre will benefit all patients receiving radiotherapy treatment across south east Wales as it will provide more facilities to treat patients within the whole of south east Wales region. Patients who live in Powys, north Aneurin Bevan and north Cwm Taf Morgannwg areas will benefit significantly from reduced travel times.

12. Will I be able to see my consultant at Nevill Hall Hospital if I have my radiotherapy treatment there?

Velindre Cancer Centre provides outpatient appointments at Nevill Hall Hospital for patients with the more common types of cancers, such as breast, colorectal and lung cancers. If you are receiving treatment for these cancers you will be able to continue to see your consultant and clinical team at Nevill Hall Hospital. For other cancers outpatient clinics may be held in other hospitals in the Health Board or at Velindre Cancer Centre.

13. Will there be dedicated parking at the Radiotherapy Satellite Centre?

Yes, there will be dedicated car parking for the patients attending the Radiotherapy Satellite Centre.

14. Will I still be under the care of Velindre Cancer Centre if I have my treatment at Nevill Hall Hospital?

The care provided at the Satellite will be the same standard as that provided at Velindre Cancer Centre. However, if it is more convenient to you or if you have an express wish to receive your treatment at Velindre Cancer Centre we will try to arrange this.

15. Are all Health Boards supportive of the Radiotherapy Satellite Centre?

Velindre University NHS Trust (VUNHST) and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) are jointly leading this project. All Health Boards in South East Wales are supportive of the plan for a Radiotherapy Satellite Centre.

16. What happens next?

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and Velindre University NHS Trust will work on completing a design for the satellite unit, using feedback from patients. They will also submit a business case to Welsh Government for their approval for the funding to build the unit.

17. How can I get involved?

We will be looking to engage with patients, their families and carers over an eight week period to make sure that the proposed changes to radiotherapy services in south east Wales will deliver the best experience and outcomes.

You can complete the survey [here](#) or attend one of our online engagement events (listed below) – you can register to attend these events or request a paper copy of the survey by emailing Velindre.comms@wales.nhs.uk.

- Wednesday 26 May 2021 at 11am
- Wednesday 9 June 2021 at 2:30pm
- Wednesday 30 June 2021 at 5pm