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Pwyllgor Gwasanaethau Iechyd
Arbenigol Cymru (PGIAC)
Welsh Health Specialised
Services Committee (WHSSC)

WELSH HEALTH SPECIALISED SERVICES COMMITTEE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – OCTOBER 2020

The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee held its latest public meeting on 13 October 2020 with a 'consent agenda', as described on the WHSSC website. This briefing sets out the key areas of consideration and aims to ensure everyone is kept up to date with what is happening in Welsh Health Specialised Services.

The papers for the meeting are available at:

<https://whssc.nhs.wales/joint-committee/committee-meetings-and-papers/2020-2021-meeting-papers/>

Reducing harm due to COVID-19: Stereotactic Ablative Radiotherapy and Brachytherapy

Members received a paper that requested approval for in-year funding to expand the commissioned indications for Stereotactic Ablative Radiotherapy (SABR) and Brachytherapy in order to provide additional, evidence based, treatment options to support the reduction of harm related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members (1) noted that clinical evidence favours the routine commissioning of SABR to treat patients with Oligometastatic cancer and Hepatocellular carcinoma; (2) noted treating patients with SABR helps to reduce COVID related harm since the relative benefits of SABR compared with alternative treatment modalities (surgery or systemic therapy) increase when there is risk of infection with COVID-19; (3) noted clinical evidence favours the routine commissioning of Brachytherapy to treat patients with intermediate and high risk localised prostate cancer; (4) noted by substituting for a proportion of external beam radiotherapy, the provision of brachytherapy for intermediate and high risk prostate cancer patients will allow increased radiotherapy throughput, reducing COVID related harm by increasing the ability to treat backlog and manage any future surge of previously suppressed demand; (5) approved commissioning SABR for patients with Oligometastatic cancer and Hepatocellular carcinoma in line with WHSSC's draft commissioning policies as in-year service developments on an interim basis for 6

months; (6) approved commissioning Brachytherapy in line with WHSSC's draft commissioning policy as an in-year service development on an interim basis for 6 months; and (7) noted recurrent funding for SABR for Oligometastatic cancer and Hepatocellular carcinoma, and Brachytherapy for intermediate and high risk prostate cancer, will be considered through the WHSSC ICP process for 2021-24.

