**Standard operative procedure for allocation of placements for Medical Oncology ST trainees in the NW England Deanery**

Written by Laura Cove-Smith and Laura Horsley 12th March 2023 v1.2

**BASE TRUSTS**

* The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester
* University Hospitals of Morecombe Bay Foundation Trust (Lancaster) and Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Trust (Preston)

**Medical oncology training posts**

* **University Hospitals of Morecombe Bay Foundation Trust and Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Trusts based posts.**

These posts involve 3 years working between University Hospitals of Morecombe Bay Foundation Trust and Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Trusts covering the majority of the curriculum and 1 year at The Christie NHS Foundation Trust for intensive therapy experience (i.e. lymphoma, sarcoma, cell therapy and early phase trials). This year is usually in ST5 but can be brought forward or delayed to meet the needs of a trainee however it must be undertaken following the oncology common stem year (ST3+).

* **The Christie NHS Foundation Trust based posts (including surrounding hospitals in Greater Manchester).**

Trainees will spend the majority of their training at the Christie/GM hospitals but will rotate to the University Hospitals of Morecombe Bay Foundation Trust and Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Trusts for a period of non-tertiary oncology experience. This generally 6-12 months and can take place at any point during the 4 year training program.

**National ranking and allocation of training posts**

The NW deanery medical oncology (MO) training programme currently takes place at 3 main trusts, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester, University Hospitals of Morecombe Bay Foundation Trust and Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Trust. Each base hospital operates a hub a spoke model for cancer care delivery to other surrounding local trusts therefore trainees will be expected to travel to other sites for peripheral clinics and acute oncology experience.

**Trainees will be offered a preference for their base trust based on national ranking therefore the highest rank candidate will be offered their first preference, followed the next highest ranked and so on.**

**Inter-deanery transfer**

The national Inter-Deanery Transfer (IDT) process was established by the Conference of Postgraduate Medical Deans (COPMeD), with support from the British Medical Association (BMA) and sponsorship from Health Education England (HEE), Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA), NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and Health Education and Improvement Wales to support postgraduate doctors in training who have had an **unforeseen and significant change in circumstances since accepting an offer of a post in training programme, or for those who, since accepting an offer, require a transfer.**

The process has been developed as part of the Enhancing Junior Doctors' Working Lives initiative which supports doctors in training who may consider deployment due to an unseen and significant change in circumstances.

An unforeseen and significant change in circumstances should relate to:

* personal disability as defined by the Equality Act 2010
* a mental health condition
* primary carer responsibilities
* parental responsibilities
* a committed relationship (or breakdown of a committed relationship)

You must have accepted an offer of a post in a training programme by the application submission closing date and have at least 12 calendar months remaining in that programme at the earliest point of transfer as well as meeting the other eligibility criteria described on the HEE IDT website such as making satisfactory progress with training through demonstrated through the ARCP process. Depending on the window in which you have applied, the earliest point of transfer will be the first Wednesday in either February or August.

**It should be recognised that transfers are not an entitlement.** IDTs will depend on compliance with the eligibility criteria, evidence requirements and the availability of suitable posts in the region (or regions) to which you are applying to move.

Applicants cannot stipulate a specific training program tract (base hospital) when transferring but they can enquire where the training program vacancy is by contacting the program support co-ordinator. Trainees must be aware that, as above, the training program will involve rotations to peripheral and non-base hospitals during their remaining training time.

**Transfer between the NW and Mersey deanery:**

The NW and Mersey deanery work closely together but have individual speciality training programs for medical oncology with separate recruitment pathways through the national application process. Since the merger of the NW and Mersey deanery trainees do not need to apply through the national IDT transfer system to be considered for transfer between Mersey and the NW deanery. It is acknowledged however that this could result in an unfair process where trainees could theoretically move to a deanery they were originally not allocated in the competitive national process.

In the interests of transparency and fairness to trainees the following local guidance around transfer between Mersey and the NW deanery have been drawn up:

* **The trainee must have completed at least 1 year of speciality training in medical oncology (ST3+)**
* **The trainee must have at least a year of training left on the program at the time of transfer**
* **The trainee must demonstrate a significant change in personal circumstance since the national recruitment application process (as stipulated on the HEE IDT website and above).**
* **Trainees will be allocated a base hospital/training program tract based on the vacancy available and cannot request a specific tract.**
* **National ranking will be considered if two applicants apply for one vacancy or to guide allocation of tract if two or more vacancy become available at the same time.**

A trainee allocated to a specific tract/base hospital cannot request transfer of tracts within the NW deanery itself.

Version 1.0

27th Jan 2023