

## Radiotherapy Board

10 April 2017

Professor Carole Longson  
Director, Health Technology Evaluation Centre  
National Institute for Health and Care Excellence  
Level 1A, City Tower  
Piccadilly Plaza  
Manchester M1 4BT

### By email

Dear Professor Longson

### **Intrabeam radiotherapy system for adjuvant treatment of early breast cancer**

As you may know, the Radiotherapy Board provides guidance, oversight and support for the continuing development of high-quality radiotherapy services for cancer patients in the UK. It is a joint initiative of The Royal College of Radiologists (RCR), the Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR), and the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM). It also has representation from across the four UK nations and from other organisations closely involved in radiotherapy service provision.

Following its most recent meeting, the Board has instructed me to raise with you its concerns about the proposed recommendation by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) for the use of the Intrabeam Radiotherapy System for patients with early breast cancer in limited circumstances with additional data collection. The Board's concerns focus on two key issues – firstly, the proposal to recommend use of a specific form of intra-operative radiotherapy provided by a single supplier (the Intrabeam system, marketed by Carl Zeiss UK), with the risks that this carries; and secondly, the lack of mature relapse rate data with which to properly assess the use of Intrabeam. On this latter point, the Board noted that the published median follow-up for patients in the Targit A trial remains two and half years, which it considers to be inappropriate for a study of local relapse in early breast cancer. The Board suggests that a decision should be deferred until five-year follow-up data are available (as shown through the results of the ELIOT trial).

I realise that these comments come too late to be included in responses to the consultation on the second Appraisal Consultation Document on Intrabeam, issued by NICE in February, but the Radiotherapy Board wished me to register its strongest concerns with you. I would be most grateful if the above could be considered before a final decision is reached on this very important issue.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Jeanette Dickson**  
Chair, Radiotherapy Board  
Vice-President, Clinical Oncology, The Royal College of Radiologists