

Prostate Brachytherapy Recovery Plan

Background

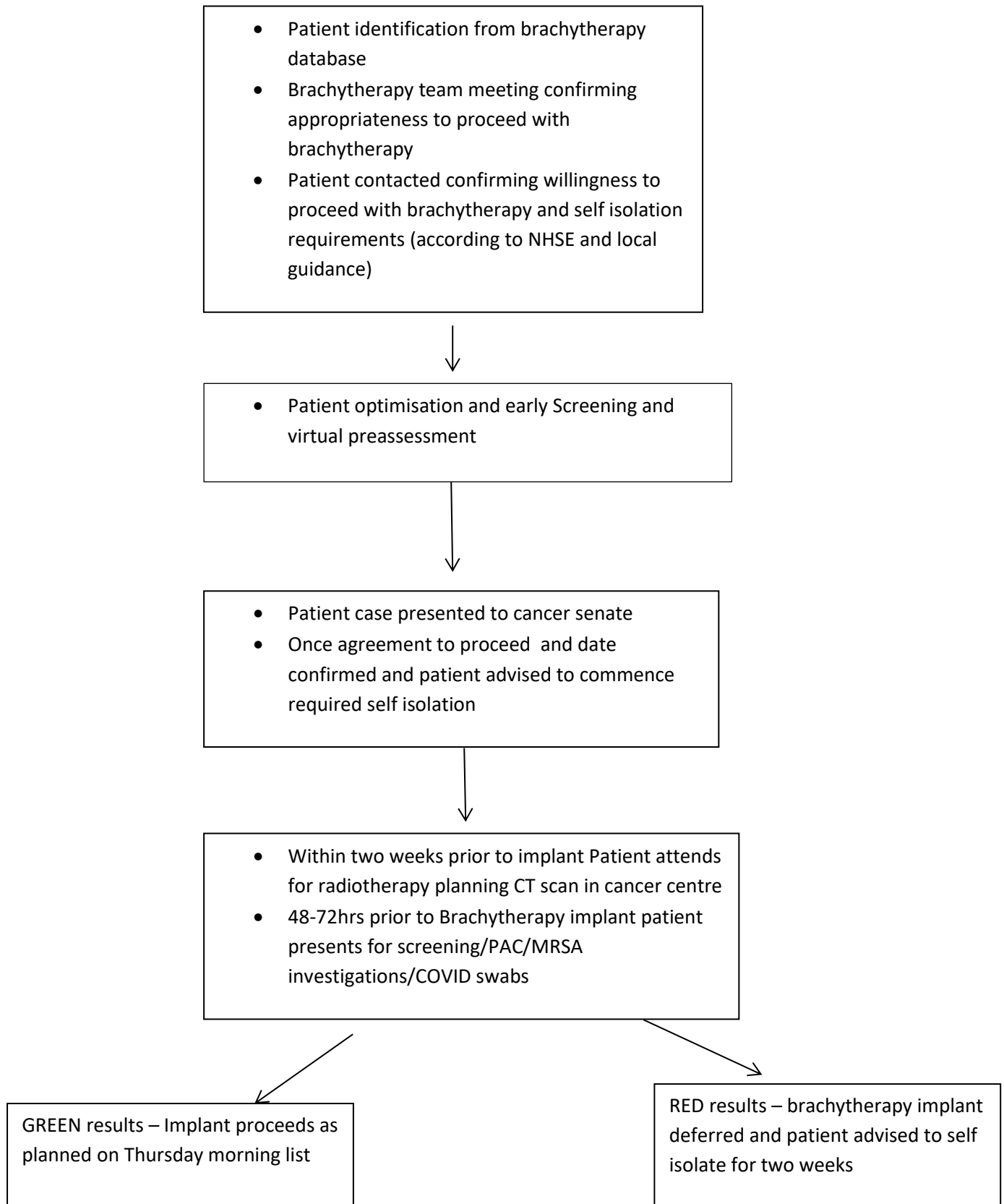
The prostate brachytherapy service began at the Sussex Cancer Centre in March 2014. More than 200 patients with high risk locally advanced prostate cancer have been treated with a brachytherapy implant (enabling radiotherapy dose escalation) followed by an abbreviated course of external beam radiotherapy. The radiotherapy doses delivered are higher than those possible with external beam radiotherapy alone and this is achievable without leading to longer term increased in GI and GU toxicity. The common longterm sequelae of high doses of radiation for prostate cancer. A combination of brachytherapy and external beam radiotherapy has been shown to lead to improvements in biochemical control and local control of prostate cancer. The treatment is generally aimed for younger, fit patients presenting with high risk locally advanced prostate cancer (patients presenting with high Gleason grade, high volume, T3 disease) where the likelihood of local control with external beam radiotherapy might be lower.

As a result of the Covid pandemic the last prostate brachytherapy patient was treated on the 5th March. There are currently 13 patients awaiting brachytherapy, to be followed by external beam radiotherapy.

The brachytherapy treatment pathway is complex and multi-disciplinary. The operating theatre is used for the transperineal implant only (under spinal and GA), however this is one component of the pathway. The patient then needs diagnostic radiology for the planning scan, medical physics and oncology for treatment planning and radiographers for treatment delivery, along with nursing staff for patient care. The prostate brachytherapy delivery day has been a Thursday, to fit in with all the involved individuals responsibilities and job plans, with a theatre implant first on the list aiming for treatment delivery at the end of the day, and discharge that evening following successful TWOC.

These patients need to have the brachytherapy implant performed in RSCH theatres to then enable treatment delivery in the "shielded" brachytherapy suite in the cancer centre. Once the implant is in place the patient has a diagnostic CT and MRI to enable planning and dosimetry. Whilst this is being performed the patient will be cared for in the brachytherapy suite.

Prostate brachytherapy pathway



Brachytherapy day

