**An online workshop to develop a study about the experiences and choices of cancer patients accessing radiotherapy services**

***Background***

In the UK there are around 360,000 new cases of cancer every year and a large number of people living with and beyond cancer. Radiotherapy is one of the tools used to treat cancer and to target some of the negative symptoms of advanced cancer such as pain. Due to the technology and the need for specialist radiotherapists to deliver this treatment, it is provided in specialist cancer centres serving in some cases large geographical areas. Some people therefore have to travel longer distances for treatment. Studies that have considered the impact of this have found that people with cancer are less likely to have radiotherapy the further away they live from a centre that provides radiotherapy. Distance from a radiotherapy centre has also been shown to be associated with differences in the cancer treatment that some patients receive. For example, studies have shown that people with early stage breast cancer are more likely to have a mastectomy compared to an alternative of beast conserving surgery with radiotherapy the further they live away from a radiotherapy centre

Due to many reasons including the location of facilities, the cost and the available workforce it may be impractical to increase the number of centres that provide radiotherapy in England. If it is not possible to reduce the travel burden by funding new radiotherapy sites nearer to patients’ homes then the focus needs to revert to better understanding the experiences of journeying to services from the patient’s perspective and how to reduce any barriers.

**Details**

We are looking to recruit people who have had experience of radiotherapy treatment or travelling with patients who are accessing radiotherapy to take part in an online workshop. We are very interested in your experiences whilst travelling to and from radiotherapy treatment. We are also very interested in your views on different methods of recording patients’ experiences of journeying to radiotherapy services and methods for exploring the treatment choices of patients.

Workshops will be arranged during the two weeks beginning the 27th of September. They will take place online and will last no longer than 1.5 hours. If you are unable to join the workshops it will be possible to contribute by e-mail or telephone.

We will offer you a thank you payment of £35 for taking part in the online workshop and for preparing your feedback.

If you are interested or would like to find out more information please contact Dr Charlotte Kelly through e-mail address **charlotte.kelly@hyms.ac.uk**