

Dr Vanessa Estall  
 Chief Accreditation Officer  
 Faculty of Radiation Oncology  
 The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists  
 51 Druitt Street  
 Sydney NSW 2000

17 November 2022

Dear Dr Estall

**Re: Accreditation of Central Coast Cancer Centre (Gosford Hospital) for Radiation Oncology Training**

We write in response to the outcome of the training site accreditation visit on 9 May 2022

We intend to cooperate with the Accreditation team to our fullest extent and are keen to meet the criteria outlined. To that end, there are a number of criteria that have already been addressed. Specifically;

**Criterion 2.4.2**

- Central Coast Cancer Centre ROs should return to conducting their work on-site, as per the February 2022 directive from the hospital executive.
- *We acknowledge that some consultants continued to work from home beyond the period instructed by the CCLHD. All consultants returned to on-site work (only) as of 16/05/2022.*

**Criterion 2.2.6**

- Central Coast Cancer Centre to rescind the responsibility for trainees to oversee the cover of clinics in the setting of trainee and consultant planned leave. This duty should be performed by those with appropriate authority i.e. DOT or HOD.
- *The responsibility for overseeing clinic cover rosters was taken up by the DOT with the first period of planned registrar leave for 2022 (from 16 May) (evidence attached). The trainees had been given this responsibility in 2020 and 2021 by the previous DOT who stood down in January 2022.*
- Central Coast Cancer Centre to respect absolute maximum of 5-6 clinics per week per trainee (irrespective of leave absence and cover).
- *Trainees are rostered for no more than 6 clinics per week (evidence attached) regardless of leave. Unaccredited registrars can be rostered for up to 8 clinics per week.*

Regarding criteria 2.2.5, 2.2.6 and 2.4.2, in particular “[CCCC] to ensure all clinics always have on-site consultants in attendance and demonstrate this through provision of RO attendance logs and audits for the next 3 months”. Since the cessation of working-from-home arrangements (during COVID restrictions), all consultants

have performed all clinics on-site, as has been the case since the opening of CCCC in 2013. This model of care has not changed since 2013, though we acknowledge that during COVID, there were clinics run with consultants off site (as required by the public health orders; and as was implemented in other districts in NSW). The suggestion of keeping RO attendance logs by the "Quality Manager" (or any staff member) for 3 months is not viable within current resources. We will undertake an audit of attendance over 6 weeks (by a senior member of non-medical staff who will remain anonymous) to demonstrate compliance and should there be any patterns of concern, we will then continue the audit for the full 3 months. We will do the same for Criteria 2.2.6, have the same staff member take an audit of whether patients have been reviewed (in person) by a consultant Radiation Oncologist prior to simulation.

In addition, we were also provided with feedback from our registrars following the site visit on 9 May 2022. They had a common perception that the accreditation team were asking very specific and leading questions with a relatively small area of focus around consultant attendance and number of clinics. They have indicated that they felt the accreditation team were not interested in hearing about their training experience overall, with one registrar reporting feeling interrogated. As we understand the interviews were recorded, we would like to request these recordings be reviewed by either Dr Yaw Chin, Dr Keen-Hun Tai, or an independent/third party to determine if the perceptions of the registrars are reflected in the interview process. Feedback on this review would be greatly appreciated.

We will provide the first progress report by 31 January 2023.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr Louise Nardone**

Director of Training, Radiation Oncology  
Central Coast Cancer Centre (Gosford Hospital)

Cc. Dr Keen-Hun Thai, Dean Faculty of Radiation Oncology  
Dr Yaw Chin, Chief Censor Faculty of Radiation Oncology