

From: Mr Kevin McMahon, Interim Director SCS

To: Trust Board

Date: 23rd June 2022

Subject: **Replacement Nuclear Medicine scanner, Antrim Hospital**

Action Required: For approval

Purpose

Permission is being sought from Trust Board to proceed with the replacement of the aged Nuclear Medicine scanner in Antrim Hospital. Funding of £800,000 has been secured from the DoH.

Background

Antrim Hospital is the only site in NHSCT which provides a Nuclear Medicine service. The current service is delivered using a 'Gamma Camera', installed in March 2005. This equipment is 17 years old. The recommended lifespan for optimal use is 10 years. The equipment has already exceeded this recommendation by 50%.

Certain examinations such as 'Octreoscans' and 'Sehcat' scans cannot be scanned on the current camera due to modern best practice. NHSCT patients are required to travel to other Trusts for these diagnostic tests resulting in NHSCT patients being in receipt of an inferior local service than elsewhere in the region. Modernised equipment will enable NHSCT Patients to be imaged in NHSCT.

Case

The service is experiencing a number of issues caused by sub-optimal equipment. There has been an increase in camera errors in the past year leading to patients being cancelled and delays in imaging. The ageing camera has been placed on the NHSCT Corporate Risk Register recorded as risk 938, the risk rating is High with a score of 12. Items are recorded on the Corporate Risk Register if they present a significant risk to the NHSCT particularly across more than one service area. Replacement parts for the gamma camera are no longer available because of the age of the equipment the manufacturer has withdrawn support since December 2020.

Updated IR(ME)R 2018 legislation now requires the NHSCT to apply for a 'Licence' for authorisation for delivery of Nuclear Medicine studies. Licences are usually for 5 years duration – the NHSCT has received a license covering 2 years.

The existing scanner will be 19 years old when the current licence expires. Upon application for renewal, it is unlikely that a licence will be given for a scanner of such vintage, leaving the Trust at risk of having to terminate the Nuclear Medicine service itself.

NHSCT has been allocated a capital investment of £800,000 to replace the nuclear Medicine scanner in Antrim Area Hospital. The project is in two parts:

- Enabling works - the scanner currently in place is a 'Gamma Camera'. This modality does not use ionising radiation, and therefore the existing accommodation does not have any lead lining protection in the walls or ceiling. SPECT-CT does use ionising radiation, and so the walls and ceiling need to have lead protective lining added. In addition, because of the CT component of a SPECT-CT scanner, a new 'control room' must be built to ensure safety of staff.
- Installation – installation will be conducted by Siemens, the equipment manufacturer, working closely with estates and Radiology colleagues.

Timeline of the project is as follows:

- 12 weeks design
- 4 weeks tendering process
- 8-10 weeks Construction
- 2 weeks installation

Following Trust Board approval the works, delivery and installation of the new scanner will be completed in January/February 2023.

Conclusion

Trust Board approval is sought for the procurement of one new SPECT-CT scanner to secure the future of Nuclear Medicine provision in NHSCT.