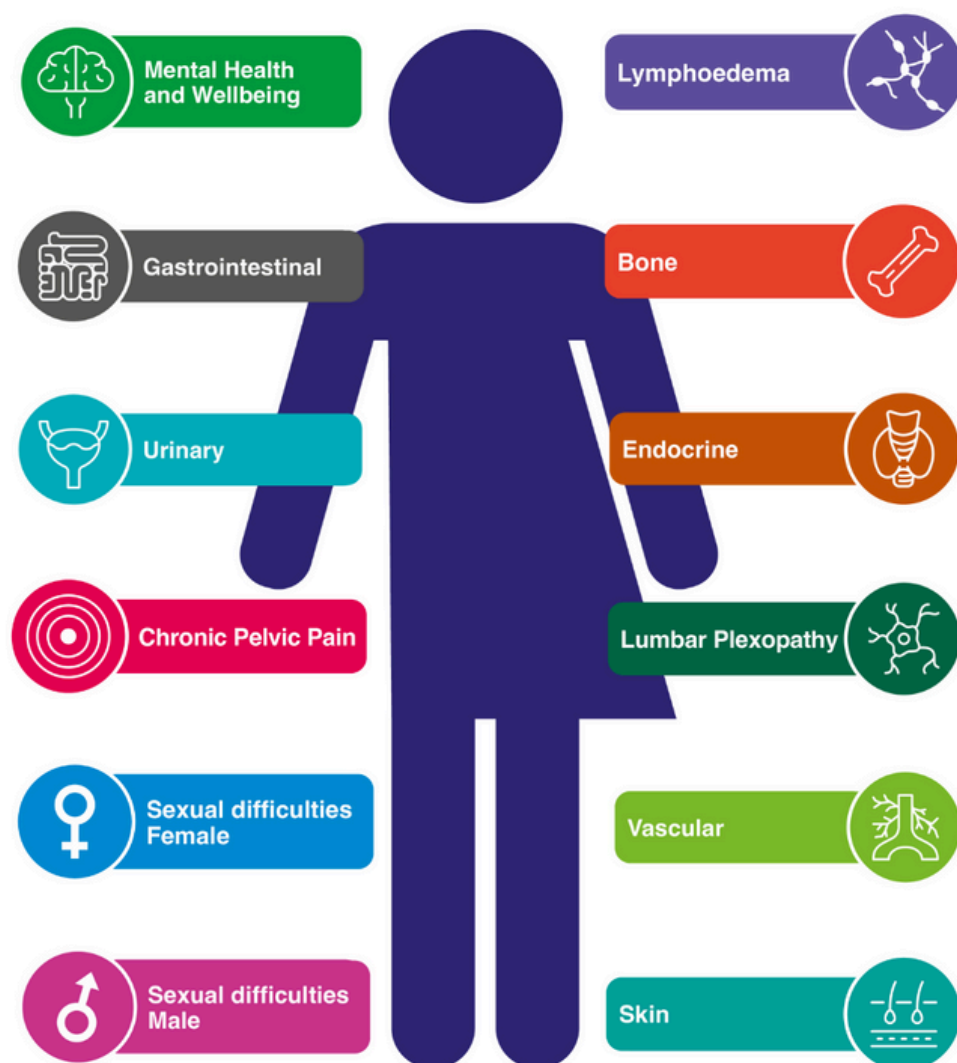


### Introduction:

Pelvic radiotherapy is a common cancer treatment and an estimated 100,000 people in the UK have chronic side effects, termed Pelvic Radiation Disease (PRD). PRD can be multifactorial and long lasting, resulting in poor quality of life, psychological problems and functional disability. In 2022, the Pelvic Radiation Disease Association (PRDA) developed a guidance document with healthcare professionals (HCPs) and people affected by PRD (PABPRD). The PRD Best Practice Pathway (BPP) includes symptom assessment and management strategies, creating a holistic pathway. Our objective was to evaluate the impact and utilisation of the BPP, with the aim of guiding future development.

### Chapters in the Pelvic Radiation Disease Best Practice Pathway



### Methods:

We distributed and publicised an online survey. We asked how the BPP was used, had changed or impacted on respondents, and what content needed improvement. We conducted quantitative and qualitative analysis of responses.

### Results:

60 responses were submitted, mostly from the UK - 49 were HCPs, 11 PABPRD.

**Answering the question of how helpful people found the BPP, 44/56 respondents said 'yes, very much' and 9/56 said 'yes, somewhat'.**

Four-fifths had shared the BPP with others. PABPRD used the document to gain access to services.

HCPs said the **BPP increased awareness and clinical knowledge of PRD, including assessment, investigations and symptom management.**

21 respondents (mostly therapeutic radiographers) indicated the BPP helped to develop clinical pathways and/or rationale for new services.

### Quotes from survey respondents:

**"I have found this really useful as a clinician and have also encouraged patients to access this information as well."**

**"Patient voice is clear, very user-friendly."**

**"My bible for management of PRD."**

**"I wish there were guidelines like this for all body sites late effects."**

**"As a patient it's been really useful to have an official document to provide to a health care professional."**

**"Pops up in lots of conversations."**

**"Has the ability to make such a difference for so many people."**

### Suggestions for BPP improvement:

- Address gaps in evidence.
- Have a matching tool for people affected by PRD.

### Conclusion:

Pelvic Radiation Disease can cause great distress and can lead to patients requiring multiple services. In the UK, therapeutic radiographers are leading on holistic Pelvic Radiation Disease service development.

**The Pelvic Radiation Disease Best Practice Pathway is having a positive impact on service provision and is a beneficial tool for both managing Pelvic Radiation Disease and signposting to resources.**

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Best Practice Pathway for Pelvic Radiation Disease

