



A day in the life of...

Meet Michelle Newman

Senior Therapeutic Radiographer at
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust



I trained at undergraduate level for three years prior to starting my career as a newly qualified radiographer at MTW in the summer of 2019. I am now based at Maidstone Hospital, working within the Kent Oncology Centre (KOC).

I work within a team of Therapeutic Radiographers to deliver highly targeted radiation to treat cancer patients using a machine called a linear accelerator (LINAC). I work alongside other healthcare professionals, including: registrars, consultants, medical physicists and dietitians to ensure accurate and effective delivery of radiotherapy treatment. There are nine LINACs in operation within KOC, six located at Maidstone and three in Canterbury.

A typical day can start off at a pretty fast pace and I am usually scheduled to work on one of Maidstone's six LINACs each day. Each LINAC can see up to 40 patients a day over the hours of 8am-8pm with the team working flexibly to cover this 12 hour period. There is an overlap of teams in the middle of the day where we can discuss any pertinent information regarding our workload and ensure that paperwork is completed efficiently.

There is a great variety in the cases that we see each day which means I am always learning something new. I love the ever-evolving world of radiotherapy; it definitely keeps you on your toes! I have the privilege of being involved in each and every one of my patient's cancer journeys; I have the opportunity to offer support and information at such a difficult time. I am proud to be a part of the service offered, working within the MTW team to provide excellent patient care.

I started as a band 5 within the Trust and was able to progress quickly into a band 6 role, I was able to gain experience within this role to develop my knowledge and skills to aid me to progress further in my career. I have recently been promoted to a band 7 role which has given me more freedom and opportunity to challenge myself, I feel that I have started to make my mark on the department. My current goal is to bring paperless working to the radiotherapy department.

During the time I have worked at the Trust I have developed both professionally and personally, gaining skills and experience that I will take throughout my entire career. MTW has an outstanding working environment, with plenty of ongoing professional support and great opportunity for advancement. I would advise anyone looking to join the team to come with an open mind and be ready to learn.