

**Radiation therapist perceptions on how artificial intelligence may affect their role and practice**

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## Participant information sheet

Study title:	Radiation Therapist perceptions on how artificial intelligence may affect their role. A survey of opinions.
Chief investigator	Julie O'Shaughnessey
Email	Julie.oshaughnessey@curtin.edu.au

You are being invited to take part in our research study. Before you decide, it is important to understand what involvement in the project will mean for you and why the study is being done. If you wish, you may discuss the study with others. Ask us if you need more information or if you are not clear about anything and take time to decide whether you want to take part or not.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has enabled the automation of tasks in radiotherapy including image reconstruction, image registration and segmentation, risk modelling and profiling, clinical decision support, treatment planning and quality assurance. AI can assist workflow and improve consistency and quality of treatments by moving Radiation Therapists (RT's) attention away from manual tasks and enabling them to develop and evaluate radiation treatments.

The aim of this study is to survey Radiation Therapists perceptions on how artificial intelligence may affect their role within Australia.

### **1. What is the purpose of the study?**

The purpose of the study is to investigate your understanding of AI, how it is used in your center and how you perceive it affecting the radiation oncology profession and your role as an RT.

### **2. Why have I been invited?**

We would like to recruit RT's who are currently registered to work within Australia.

### **3. Do I have to take part?**

Your decision to participate in the study is entirely voluntary. A copy of the information provided here is yours to keep; completion of the survey is your consent to take part in this research. You

may refuse to participate, you can withdraw from the study at any time or you can refuse to answer any particular questions asked or you.

#### **4. What will happen to me if I take part?**

The researcher has attached a questionnaire to this email. You will be required to complete the questionnaire, which will take approximately 10 minutes. No further participation will be required from you after this. The researcher aims to publish the results of this project and disseminate the findings at a national conference. If you would like to receive further information regarding this, please email the researcher ([Julie.oshaughnessey@curtin.edu.au](mailto:Julie.oshaughnessey@curtin.edu.au)).

#### **5. Expenses and payments**

You will not be paid for taking part in this study.

#### **6. Any possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

There are no disadvantages or risks of taking part in this research. The questionnaire will take approximately 10 minutes of your time and the responses are anonymous. If you email the researcher to gain more information on the study, the communication as a result will remain confidential.

#### **7. Any possible benefits of taking part?**

There is no intended benefit to you from taking part in this study. However, the information we get from this study helps in understanding current use of AI within Australia and the perceptions of RT's on if its implementation will affect their role. This project will contribute to research and education.

#### **8. How will you use what is recorded and reported about me?**

The University undertakes research as part of its function for the community under its legal status. Data protection allows us to use personal data for research with appropriate safeguards in place under the legal basis of public tasks that are in the public interest. A full statement of your rights can be found at: <https://www.shu.ac.uk/about-this-website/privacy-policy/privacy-notices/privacy-notice-forresearch>

All information collected from you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential but the project supervisor and other responsible people at Sheffield Hallam will be able to see the questionnaire data.

Direct quotations from the questionnaire may be used when writing up the research however; these quotes will be labelled using a pseudonym appropriate to your gender. Identifying details will be taken out of any final report and any publication so people reading these will not be able to identify you.

**9. What will happen to the results of the research study?**

The study will be completed by December 2021. It will be written up as part of the researchers Master's Degree studies. It is anticipated that the results of the study will be submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal as well as being presented at a relevant professional conference. You may receive a summary of the results if you wish. Simply let us know that you would like to receive a summary of the results and we shall email you, once the project is complete.

**10. What will happen to the information when this study is over?**

Once the project is complete, the research folder will be kept for 5 years, in case it is useful for further research. The research folder will be password protected in a secure place.

The surveys themselves will be also be kept for 1 year.

After this time, the research folder will be deleted.

**11. Who is sponsoring the study?**

The sponsor of the study has the duty to ensure that it runs properly and that it is insured. In this study, the sponsor is Sheffield Hallam University.

**12. Who has reviewed this study?**

All University research is reviewed to ensure that participants are treated appropriately and their rights respected. This study was approved by the Sheffield Hallam University Research Ethics Committee.

If you have any queries or questions please contact:

Below are details of who to contact if you have any concerns or if adverse effects occur after the study: