

4 February 2026

Focal Therapy Treatment – Prostate Cancer

Belfast Trust’s response to all questions below is as follows:

It is the view of Urology Surgery in Belfast Health and Social Care Trust that the development of a localised Focal Therapy Treatment service should certainly be discussed with commissioners, but Belfast Trust cannot currently offer this due to not being a specialised centre for Focal Therapy treatment.

In the absence of a local service, the Trust will continue to seek funding approval to refer suitable patients for treatment in other centres in Great Britain.

Could you please provide me with the following information?

1. Exclusion from the UK Trial

- **Why was the Belfast Cancer Centre not included as a site in the UK focal therapy trial, despite being one of the UK’s leading specialist cancer units**
- **Was the Trust approached by Prostate Cancer UK or the trial organisers, and if so, what was the outcome of those discussions**
- **If the Trust was not approached, what steps has it taken to proactively seek inclusion in UK-wide prostate cancer research programmes**

2. Engagement with Prostate Cancer UK

- **What engagement has the Trust had with Prostate Cancer UK regarding Northern Ireland’s exclusion from the focal therapy trial**
- **Has the Trust requested that Belfast be added as a trial site, and if not, why not**
- **What explanation has the Trust received for NI men being unable to enrol at GB trial sites**

3. Equality of Access for NI Patients

- **How does the Trust justify a situation where men in Northern Ireland cannot access a NICE-approved treatment that is available to men in the rest of the UK**

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- **What Equality Impact Assessment has the Trust carried out regarding the absence of focal therapy as a treatment option**
- **What steps is the Trust taking to ensure NI men are not disadvantaged compared with patients in England, Scotland, and Wales**

4. Clinical Capability in Belfast

- **Given that the Belfast Cancer Centre has the clinical infrastructure to deliver advanced prostate cancer treatments, what specific barriers prevent the introduction of focal therapy locally**
- **Has the Trust assessed the feasibility of offering focal therapy within existing surgical and radiology capacity**
- **What investment or training would be required to deliver focal therapy in Belfast, and has this been costed**

5. Patient Pathways and Referrals

- **How many NI men have asked about focal therapy or attempted to access it through GB centres, and what support were they offered**
- **Does the Trust have a pathway for cross-border referral for NICE-approved treatments not available in NI, and if not, why not**

6. Transparency and Decision-Making

- **Which committees or clinical governance groups within the Trust have discussed focal therapy, and where are the minutes of those discussions published**
- **What evidence base has the Trust relied upon to justify not offering focal therapy locally**
- **Will the Trust commit to publishing a review of its position on focal therapy and NI's exclusion from the UK trial**

7. Future Provision

- **What is the Trust's plan and timeline for evaluating focal therapy as a treatment option for NI men**
- **Will the Trust commit to engaging with Prostate Cancer UK to secure NI participation in future research programmes**