

# News Release

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### **ONCURE™ Wins Contract for The Cookridge Hospital's Prostate Brachytherapy Seed Business**

London (January, 2006) — ONCURE, a global leader in minimally invasive prostate cancer treatment is pleased to announce that The Cookridge Hospital, Leeds have decided to award the contract for the provision of seeds used by their prostate brachytherapy programme to Oncure until 2008. With over 1500 prostate cancer patients treated since 1995 The Cookridge Hospital is one of the world's leading centres for this established method of treating localized prostate cancer.

*"We are delighted to continue our long relationship with Oncure. It was important that our seed supplier was able to offer a high quality and reliable stranded product, as well as a full range of support services, so that the our brachytherapy implant programme is able to grow and flourish at the forefront of this technology,"* said Dr Dan Ash. He added, *"Our data continues to support the long term effectiveness of this therapy."*

The team at Cookridge Hospital recognized, over ten years ago, that the technique of prostate brachytherapy had the potential to produce a minimally invasive option offering excellent cure rates and fewer side effects than other options.

Brachytherapy involves inserting approximately 100 tiny radioactive seeds into the prostate gland which then kill the cancer cells. The procedure is typically done under a general anaesthetic as a day case or overnight stay, thereby dramatically reducing the patient's stay in hospital and avoiding many of the side effects often associated with surgery.

"We are delighted to continue our long relationship with Cookridge Hospital" said Elizabeth Usher, VP and General Manager of Oncure's International business, "We are pleased that the work that began with Cookridge many years ago is gaining momentum, and are especially pleased with the recent positive NICE guidance and DOH recommendations on LDR Brachytherapy".

In the U.K, only a small percentage of men who could benefit from prostate seed implantation are actually offered the treatment. As a company which is committed to the continued development of the treatment in the U.K, Oncure continues to invest in areas that improve awareness and access. A key component in increasing awareness is the provision of support to those centres offering the treatment and collecting data for publication to demonstrate the treatment's efficacy. The Cookridge Hospital is a centre of utmost importance in this area.

ONCURA was created through the merger of Amersham plc's (now GE Healthcare) brachytherapy business and Galil Medical Ltd's urology business. Galil is a subsidiary of Elron (ELRN). Headquartered in the United States, ONCURA operates as an independent business, with a major presence in the treatment of prostate cancer. ONCURA's International business is operated from its UK subsidiary. Please visit <http://www.oncura.com> for more information.