

# Radiation Therapy: What You Need to Know About Your Appointments



There are some things you should know about your radiation therapy appointments. This pamphlet should answer most questions you may have about your appointments and help you plan ahead for your treatments.

## How will I find out when my first treatment is?

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You will have your markings (simulation) and all the planning for your treatment done first. Once all this has been done, a booking clerk from the Cancer Centre will call you with the exact time of your first radiation treatment.

## What will happen on my first day of treatment?

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When you come for your treatment, please put your white appointment card/ treatment timesheet in the green box, located next to the waiting room. If you **need** to change into a hospital gown, please do so in the locker room **right away** and take a seat in the waiting room. A radiation therapist will come to the waiting room to take you in for your treatment.

## When do I see my radiation oncologist and nurse?

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Every Monday, you can stay to see the doctor and a nurse. Please stay in the waiting room after your treatment. Plan to be in the clinic longer than usual on this day. Please feel free to bring family members along on this day so they can be with you for the visit.

## Will my appointments be at the same time every day?

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Each day, many patients come for radiation therapy. Often, appointments need to be juggled around to meet the time and needs of each patient. It is very hard to plan appointment times at the exact same time every day, and it is also very hard to meet specific requests. The booking clerk at the reception desk will arrange all of your appointment times once a week and will try their best to book you in for the times you

want. But, this is not always something they can do. On Friday, you will be given a schedule with all of your appointment times for the next week. Let the booking clerk know as soon as you can about any concerns you may have about your appointments, including problems with childcare, work, transportation, or other doctor's appointments.

## **Where can I stay if I live a distance from the hospital?**

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Most patients will have several weeks of treatment and some patients may need a place to stay if they live a distance from the hospital. People from outside the Cape Breton Regional Municipality can stay at Holy Redeemer Centre. If needed, the booking clerk will make the reservation for you there.

## **Can I have my appointments early on Friday and late on Monday?**

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Many patients coming daily for treatment live far from the Sydney area. Often these patients are staying at a nearby lodge or hotel and are away from their families. The booking clerk will try to give patients who have long distances to travel an early appointment on Friday and a late appointment on Monday. Most requests for these preferred treatment times will not be granted unless you are travelling far away for the weekend.

## **What should I do if I am sick on the day of my treatment?**

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If you are too sick to come for treatment, please phone the number located on the front of your appointment card (567-8100). If no one is able to take your call, please leave a message and someone will return your call as soon as they can. You will still need the same number of treatments. If a treatment does get missed, one more will be added on at the end.

## **What should I do if the weather is bad?**

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If the weather is bad, please phone the Cancer Centre at 567-8100 or 567-7771 before coming to see if it is open. If you are unable to have your treatment that day, your appointment will be re-scheduled and you will be called with the new time.





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