



Radiation Treatment Care Team

*Information about your radiation treatment
and your care team*

This handout details what you need to know about having radiation treatment at the UWMC Cancer Center. It also covers information about your Care Team and whom to call when you have questions or concerns.

Your Care Team

The staff in the radiation treatment area are here to make your treatment progress smoothly and to make you as comfortable as possible. We strongly encourage you to tell us of any problems or concerns you have about your treatment. While you are receiving radiation treatment you will meet some new staff. We want to clarify their roles. It may help to know that an oncologist is a doctor who specializes in treating cancer. Medical oncologists specialize in treating cancer with chemotherapy. Surgical oncologists specialize in using surgery to treat cancer. Radiation oncologists specialize in using radiation to treat cancer. You will have two radiation oncologists in charge of your radiation treatment. One will be your attending doctor (radiation oncologist who is a faculty member of the UW School of Medicine). You will also have a resident doctor who is receiving training to specialize in radiation therapy. The resident will review your medical history, give you a physical exam and discuss treatment options with you. Both doctors will plan and follow your treatment.

Your radiation attending doctor: _____

Your resident attending doctor: _____

You will see a doctor once a week on “doctor day.” At this regularly scheduled time, your doctor will check your treatment progress and answer any questions you may have. This is your scheduled visit, but you may ask to see your doctor at other times if you have problems or concerns.

Your radiation nurse, _____ functions as a link between you, the doctor, and the radiation therapist who gives the radiation treatment.

Questions?

Call 206-598-4141

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or radiation nurse if you have questions or concerns. The UWMC Cancer Center Staff are also available to help at any time.

The radiation nurse is here on a daily basis to:

- Give you information about radiation treatment and side effects you may have
- Support you in managing any side effects that may occur
- Arrange for you to see your doctor, if needed, at a time other than your regular weekly visit

Keep your nurse informed of any changes you may notice in how you feel and any concerns you have.

Board certified radiation therapists work in teams of two to operate our five radiation treatment machines. They provide the actual treatments after all the planning has been approved by your doctor. To offer the best service to patients, our radiation therapists are required to be skilled at operating all the machines. They must rotate to all the types of machines to keep their skills current, so you may see different therapists at some time during your treatment.

Some patients find that radiation affects their appetite and/or the way food tastes. Yet, we strongly recommend that you maintain your weight during treatment to help your body recover most effectively. Judy Brown, our clinical dietician, is available Wednesday afternoons and Thursday mornings to help you with any eating problems that may arise. She can assist you in finding ways to eat should eating become difficult. At other times, she can be reached at **(206) 598-6361**.

A diagnosis of cancer can turn your life upside down. It can affect your independence, your energy level and raise concerns for you and your loved ones. Stephanie Martin, our social worker, is available to help you cope with these problems and find ways to manage the stress you or your family may experience. She can be called at **(206) 598-4108** or ask the staff to help you reach her.

Pat Haney, our patient services care coordinator, can help you with parking passes, housing and transportation problems, and finding other information. She will also try to answer your questions or find the right staff to give you the information you need.

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