

What You Need to Know About Your Radiation Therapy Appointments, QEII Cancer Care Program (Halifax)



Nova Scotia Cancer Care Program

www.nscancercare.ca

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There are several 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 upcoming treatments.

How will I find out when my first treatment is?

Once you have had your treatment planning appointment, and all the planning for your treatments is complete, you will get a phone call to let you know when your treatments will start. You will be asked to come early the first day to be registered.

Most patients will have several weeks of treatment, and some patients will need to have a place to stay while they are here for treatments. The clerk who calls you with your first appointment will arrange your reservation at either Point Pleasant Lodge or The Lodge That Gives.

What will happen on my first day of treatment?

You need to check in at the reception desk in the Radiation Therapy Department. The clerk will give you an appointment sheet, which will have your treatment times for the rest of the week. Every Friday you will receive your appointments for the following week.

You will also receive an identification tag that you will wear everyday while in the Radiation Therapy department.

You may be asked to change into a gown before your treatments. The clerk will show you where to change and what to do with your belongings. A Radiation Therapist will come to the waiting room to take you in for your treatment.

What are your questions? Please ask.

We are here to help you.

When do I see my Radiation Oncologist?

Once a week you are scheduled to have a visit with your Oncology Nurse and/or Radiation Oncologist. This is called your review day. A member of the staff will tell you which day is your scheduled day to see your doctor. It is also printed on your appointment sheet. On that day, you will need to wait in the same waiting room after your treatment. Be prepared to be in the clinic longer than usual on your review day. You may also ask to be seen any other day if you have a new problem or question.

Will my appointments be at the same time every day?

Your appointments will not be at the same time every day due to the number of patients getting treatment. The clerks at the reception desk will try to carry out your appointment time requests. However, it is often not possible. Let the clerks know as far in advance as possible any concerns you have about your appointments, including problems with child care, work, transportation, or other medical appointments.

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

Many of the patients coming daily for treatment live far from Halifax. Often these patients are staying at one of the Lodges and are away from their families. The clerks will try to schedule patients who have long distances to travel early on Friday and late on Monday. Requests for these popular treatment times will not be done unless you are a patient travelling for the weekend.

Questions you may want to ask the Health Care Team

- What day of the week am I scheduled to see my doctor?
- How far in advance will I know my appointments?
- Can I have an early appointment Friday and a late one Monday?

Looking for more health information?

Find this brochure and all our patient resources here: <http://library.nshealth.ca/PatientGuides>
Contact your local public library for books, videos, magazines, and other resources.
For more information, go to <http://library.novascotia.ca>

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The information is not intended to be and does not constitute health care or medical advice.
If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider. The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years or as needed.

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