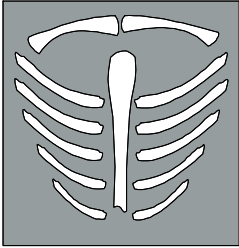




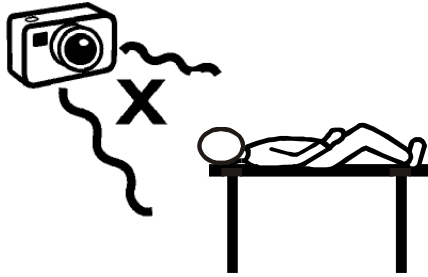
Radiotherapy



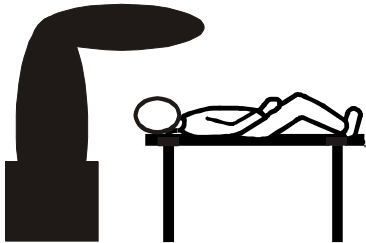
## Radiotherapy



Radiotherapy is a radiation treatment for cancer.




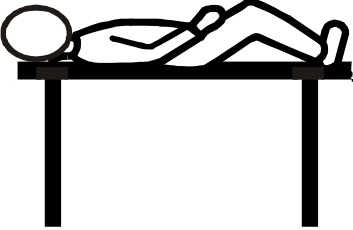
It is given to the outside of your body using x-rays.



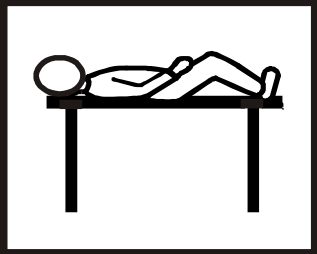
A special machine treats the part of your body that has cancer.



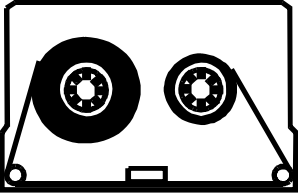
The machine is noisy.

 Radiotherapy

You will be asked to lie on a bed.



You will be alone in the room while you have your treatment.



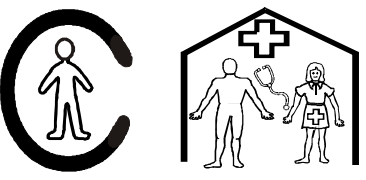
You can bring your own music to listen to.




This will help you to relax.




Radiotherapy  
Outpatients




This is oncology  
outpatients.



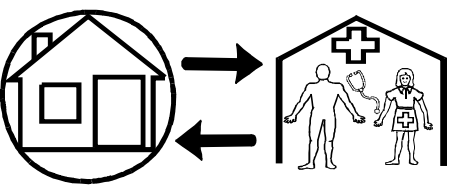
This is where people  
go when they need  
treatment for cancer.



You will need to go to  
radiotherapy reception.



You will be asked to wait  
until your name is  
Called out.



You will be able to go  
home after your  
appointment.

## **Radiotherapy Guidance Notes for Health Professionals**

### **What is Radiotherapy?**

Radiotherapy is the treatment of cancer using X-rays. It works by destroying the cancer cells in the area being treated.

### **How is it given?**

It is given using a large machine that delivers radiation to the area being treated. The machine will move around the patient's body in order to give the treatment from several different directions. The machine will be noisy.

### **How often will the treatment be given?**

Each patient will have their own treatment plan. Most patients will have treatment from Monday to Friday with a rest at the weekends. This will usually last up to 8 weeks.

### **What are the possible side effects?**

The patient may suffer from one or a combination of the following:

- Tiredness.
- Changes in the blood. (Treatment may affect the patient's blood count. If this is the case they will have regular blood tests.)
- Painful mouth. (Head and neck patients only)
- Loss of appetite and weight loss. (Due to sore mouth)
- Hair loss. (Only within the treatment area)

#### **If the patient is having radiotherapy to the chest they may experience:**

- Difficulty in swallowing.
- Nausea.
- Weight loss.
- Shortness of breath. (Should be reported to GP)

#### **If the patient is having radiotherapy to the stomach and pelvis they may experience:**

- Diarrhoea.
- Discomfort around the back passage.
- Nausea.
- Loss of appetite and weight loss. (As a result of diarrhoea and nausea)
- Pain while passing urine.

If the patient has any health concerns they should see their GP.