This guide is for patients attending the Radiation Oncology Department at the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

It provides information about radiation therapy and Radiation Oncology Department personnel. It does not provide specific medical advice.

For more detailed information about radiation therapy please speak to your Specialist Doctor (Radiation Oncologist).

How to view contents
This guide is formatted as an interactive PDF, it is best viewed using the latest version of Adobe Acrobat Reader available from Acrobat.adobe.com

This free software can be downloaded for PC, Macintosh and mobile devices. The document may also be viewed using the Apple iBooks application.

How to navigate document
When viewing this guide the reader can move between pages and open extra content by clicking or touching the navigation icons displayed to the left of this page. Text in blue font can also be selected for links to further information.
A message to our patients:

On behalf of our health care team I would like to welcome you to the Radiation Oncology Department at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, (Ipswich Rd Campus), one of Queensland’s most acclaimed public cancer treatment facilities.

In partnership with our hospital campus colleagues we provide highly integrated and specialised multidisciplinary care to manage a variety of common cancers, rare malignancies and benign conditions.

When you have treatment at our centre you can expect true holistic medical care in a comfortable & friendly environment.

Your well-being is our priority.

Associate Professor Margot Lehman
Director of Radiation Oncology Princess Alexandra Hospital
Our Radiation Oncology Team

Produced by: Radiation Oncology Dept, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Ipswich Road Campus, Division of Cancer Services, Metro South Health
A/Prof Margot Lehman  
MBBS (HONS), FRANZCR, GDPH  
Position: Senior Radiation Oncologist & Medical Director of Radiation Oncology at the PA Hospital  
Languages spoken: English

Professor Sandro V Porceddu  
BSc, MBBS (Hons), FRANZCR, MD  
Position: Senior Radiation Oncologist & Director of Radiation Oncology Research at the PA Hospital  
Languages spoken: English

A/Prof Matthew Foote  
BSc, MBBS (Hons), FRANZCR  
Position: Radiation Oncologist & Co-Director of the Gamma Knife Unit at the PA Hospital  
Languages spoken: English

Dr Tao Mai  
MBBS, FRANZCR, PhD  
Position: Senior Radiation Oncologist  
Languages spoken: English, Mandarin

A/Prof David Pryor  
BSc, MBBS, FRANZCR  
Position: Senior Radiation Oncologist & Director of Radiation Oncology Training at the PA Hospital  
Languages spoken: English

Dr Andrew Pullar  
MBBS, FRANZCR  
Position: Senior Radiation Oncologist  
Languages spoken: English

Dr Jennifer Harvey  
BSc (Hons), MBBS, FRANZCR  
Position: Senior Radiation Oncologist  
Languages spoken: English

Dr Howard Liu  
BPhthy(Hons), MBBS, FRANZCR  
Position: Radiation Oncologist  
Languages spoken: English, Mandarin

Dr Mark Pinkham  
BM BCh MA (Hons) (Oxon) FRANZCR  
Position: Radiation Oncologist  
Languages spoken: English, Spanish

Dr Yoo Young (Dominique) Lee  
MBChB, FRANZCR  
Position: Radiation Oncologist  
Languages spoken: English, Korean
A/Prof Margot Lehman MBBS (HONS), FRANZCR, GDPH

SPECIALIST AREAS
Associate Professor Margot Lehman is a Senior Radiation Oncologist and Director of the Department of Radiation Oncology, Princess Alexandra Hospital. She is an Associate Professor of Medicine with the University of Queensland.

Her special interests include the management of lung cancer, urological cancer & breast cancer.

EDUCATION
Associate Professor Lehman is a graduate of the University of Queensland School of Medicine. Her specialty training was undertaken at the Prince of Wales and Westmead Hospitals, Sydney followed by a Fellowship at the University of Toronto (Sunnybrook Hospital). Dr Lehman joined the staff of the Princess Alexandra Hospital Department of Radiation Oncology in 2002.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS
Associate Professor Lehman maintains an active research profile in all her specialty areas of interest. She has over 70 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and published abstracts and has been invited to speak at major national and international meetings.

Associate Professor Lehman was invited to become a member of the Cancer Australia Working Party which developed national guidelines for the management of non-small cell lung cancer. She is the principal investigator of a Cancer Australia funded trial investigating the management of non-small cell lung cancer.

She is a past Executive Member of the Faculty of Radiation Oncology Genitourinary Interest Group which has published widely cited guidelines for the management of urological malignancies.

AWARDS & MEMBERSHIPS
Associate Professor Lehman has a particular interest in medical education. She is Chief Censor of the Royal Australian and New Zealand Faculty of Radiation Oncology, Chairs the Education and Training Committee, and is a Faculty Phase 2 Examiner. For her contribution to educational activities, Associate Professor Lehman was awarded the Denise Lonergan Educational Service Award by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists.

Associate Professor Lehman is a member of the Queensland Cancer Control Safety and Quality Partnership Quality Assurance Committee (Breast Cancer Subcommittee).
SPECIALIST AREAS
Professor Sandro Porceddu is an internationally recognised radiation oncologist and leading authority in head & neck oncology and skin cancer. With over 20 years experience in medicine his areas of expertise include head & neck, skin, sarcoma and lymphoma cancers.

EDUCATION
Professor Porceddu completed his medical degree at Monash University before undertaking his residency at Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne. He commenced his specialist training in radiation oncology at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in 1996 and was made a fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists, Faculty of Radiation Oncology in 2000. After working as a consultant radiation oncologist at PeterMac for several years he moved to the Princess Alexandra Hospital in 2004.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS
Professor Porceddu runs an active clinical research program with over 150 peer-review articles, book chapters and published abstracts. He has received invitations to speak at major international conferences such as the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) meeting and has published in journals such as the Lancet Oncology & Journal of Clinical Oncology.

He has led the only randomized trial of chemotherapy and radiotherapy in advanced cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck, and his work with positron emission tomography for managing head and neck cancer has changed practices throughout the world.

AWARDS & MEMBERSHIPS
Professor Porceddu has been awarded a Doctor of Medicine (MD) by the University of Queensland, pre-eminent status by Queensland Health and the Chris O’Brien Travelling Fellowship by the Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society.

He has been the President of the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA), the peak organization for cancer-related health professionals, and the Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group (TROG), one of the largest cancer collaborative trials group in Australia/New Zealand. He has served on the board of the Cancer Council of Australia, the National Cancer Expert Reference Group for the Commonwealth and the International Union for the Control of Cancer Tumour, Node, Metastasis, (TNM) Expert Advisory Panel. Currently, he is the Chair of the Cancer Council Queensland Co-operative Oncology Group.
Dr Gang Tao Mai MBBS, FRANZCR, PhD

SPECIALIST AREAS
Dr Gang Tao Mai is a Senior Radiation Oncologist at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. Her areas of special interest include the management of lung, breast and gastrointestinal cancers.

EDUCATION
Dr Mai obtained her PhD degree at the University of Queensland graduating from the School of Medicine in 1995. She completed her specialty training in radiation oncology at the Prince of Wales and Westmead Hospitals in Sydney and was made a fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists, Faculty of Radiation Oncology in 2003. Dr Mai commenced work as a Radiation Oncologist at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in 2006.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS
Dr Mai focuses her research activities in the areas of breast, lung and gastrointestinal cancer management. She is an advocate for the use of new radiation therapy technologies and seeks to improve the lives of patients through the administration of advanced radiation treatment techniques.

Dr Mai regularly attends national and international conferences to maintain her professional development and to learn about evolving cancer management practices. In academia Dr Mai has published papers in peer-review journals, book chapters, and presented at national and international meetings.

AWARDS & MEMBERSHIPS
Dr Mai is a member of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR), actively participating in specialty teaching and training programs for the Faculty of Radiation Oncology. She also has an education role with the University of Queensland as a senior lecturer in medicine.

As part of her involvement in research Dr Mai is a member of the Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group (TROG), a collaborative trials group in Australia and New Zealand for cancer research and is a member of the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC), an organisation that supports researchers, rewards scientific excellence and encourages innovation in lung cancer prevention and translational medicine around the world.
SPECIALIST AREAS
Associate Professor Matthew Foote has special interests in stereotactic brain and body radiotherapy, neuro-oncology, and advanced skin cancer treatment. He is currently the Co-Director of the Gamma Knife® Centre of Queensland at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and an examiner for the University of Queensland Medical School.

EDUCATION
Associate Professor Foote completed a Bachelor of Science with Commendation for High Achievement and a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery in 2002 with Honours, receiving The Neville G. Sutton Prize in surgery & The Charles Mitford Lilley Memorial Prize for surgery. Having completed his advanced training in Radiation Oncology in 2009, he commenced a clinical and research fellowship (focused on neuro-oncology and stereotactic radiotherapy) at the Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto, Canada.

He then returned to Australia in 2010 to take up a staff specialist position at the Princess Alexandra Hospital Radiation Oncology Centre where he was instrumental in establishing the Gamma Knife® Centre of Queensland (the first public cancer treatment facility of its kind in Australia).

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS
Associate Professor Foote is a principal investigator of international, national & local clinical trials in melanoma, non-melanoma skin cancer and neuro-oncology. In research he is involved with TROG, ANZMTG, COGNO and the Translational Research Institute. He is also a reviewer for national and international journals and has published papers on stereotactic spine radiotherapy highlighting his expertise and collaboration with leaders in this field.

AWARDS & MEMBERSHIPS
Associate Professor Foote represents Australasia on the Elekta Oligometastasis Consortium, a group dedicated to outcomes research using stereotactic body radiotherapy and has been elected by his peers to the International Stereotactic Radiosurgery Society (ISRS) which supports stereotactic body and brain research internationally.

He is a member of the Co-operative Trials Group for Neuro-oncology (COGNO), Australia and New Zealand Melanoma Trials Group (ANZMTG), the Australia and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society (ANZHNCS), and the Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group (TROG).

In the community he is involved with the Queensland Cancer Council, Cure Brain Cancer Foundation and is a patron of the Queensland Acoustic Neuroma Association (QANA). Since 2011 his body of work has attracted in excess of $8.5 million in private and government investment, receiving grants from the NHMRC and Cancer Australia.

He is committed to providing patient focused care and is at the forefront of innovative radiation therapy practice.
A/Prof David Pryor BSc, MBBS, FRANZCR

SPECIALIST AREAS
Associate Professor David Pryor is a radiation oncologist specialising in the management of urological cancers, gastrointestinal cancers and bone/soft tissue tumours (sarcomas). He is the clinical lead for the stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT) program at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, implementing SBRT for prostate, liver and kidney cancers and is chair of a national study evaluating the role of SBRT in patients with limited sites of metastatic spread of their cancer (termed oligometastases).

EDUCATION
Associate Professor Pryor completed his medical degree with honours at the University of Queensland in 2001 and was awarded his fellowship of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR), Faculty of Radiation Oncology, in 2011.

He is the Director of Training in Radiation Oncology at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, an Adjunct Associate Professor with the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre, Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and a Senior Lecturer with the School of Medicine, University of Queensland. He has been an examiner and member of the curriculum development team for the RANZCR Faculty of Radiation Oncology.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS
Associate Professor Pryor has an active clinical research program with special interests in precision radiotherapy (including SBRT), its combination with systemic agents and the incorporation of functional imaging to guide radiation treatment and response. He has collaborations with the Australia Prostate Cancer Research Centre with a focus on quality improvement through clinical outcome registries and pre-clinical models of precision radiotherapy.

He has been actively involved in developing collaborative, multicentre clinical trials evaluating SBRT in the management of prostate, liver, lung, breast and kidney cancers and is the current chair of the Genitourinary Committee of the Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology collaborative trials group (TROG).

AWARDS & MEMBERSHIPS
Associate Professor Pryor sits on a number of state and national scientific advisory and quality improvement committees for prostate cancer, sarcomas and gastrointestinal cancers. As the clinical lead for the Prostate Cancer Outcomes Registry (PCOR) in Queensland and member of the PCOR-ANZ national steering committee he is involved in developing and monitoring quality indicators to measure the standard of care provided to prostate cancer patients in Australia. He is also a member of the Radiation Oncology Sub-committee of the Queensland Cancer Control Safety and Quality Partnership.
Dr Mark Pinkham BM BCh MA (Hons) (Oxon) FRANZCR

SPECIALIST AREAS
Dr Mark Pinkham is a Radiation Oncologist based at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane. His main areas of clinical interest are in the treatment of melanoma and diseases of the central nervous system including brain metastases.

EDUCATION
Dr Pinkham graduated from Oxford University in 2005 having also attained a Masters Degree with Honours in Physiological Sciences. He completed specialist training in radiation oncology in Brisbane in 2014 and subsequently undertook an 18-month Clinical Research Fellowship in neuro-oncology and stereotactic radiosurgery at the renowned Christie Hospital, UK which is the largest cancer hospital in Europe.

He returned to Brisbane in 2015 appointed as a Staff Specialist and is part of the Gamma Knife ® Centre of Queensland which is the first public service of its kind in Australia.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS
Dr Pinkham has previously worked as an Honorary Academic Research Fellow in the Wolfson Molecular Imaging Centre, University of Manchester, UK. He is currently a Senior Lecturer with the University of Queensland.

He is involved with the running and recruitment of patients to a number of clinical trials and is the local Principal Investigator for studies relating to his areas of clinical expertise. He is the author of a number of original publications, abstracts, study protocols and a book chapter. He is the current clinical lead for an expert panel developing treatment guidelines for the management of brain metastases.

AWARDS & MEMBERSHIPS
Dr Pinkham is an active member of the Australia and New Zealand Melanoma Trials Group, the Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-Oncology and the Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group. He also is an educator for the Queensland Radiation Oncology Training Network and recipient of the 2016 MVP award for his role in teaching radiobiology to junior doctors.
SPECIALIST AREAS
Dr Jennifer Harvey has worked for over 20 years in radiation oncology. She has sub-specialised in the fields of breast cancer management as well as upper and lower gastrointestinal cancers. She is well known in Australia for her expertise and research in these areas.

In her consultations, Dr Harvey focuses on ensuring that patients are informed, involved and empowered when making decisions about treatment and quality of life.

EDUCATION
Dr Harvey obtained a BSC Honours Degree at the University of The Witwatersrand in South Africa specialising in Medical Biochemistry. She then worked in a medical research laboratory for 2 years before studying Medicine at the University of Queensland. She commenced specialist training at the Queensland Radium Institute and was invited to be a Fellow of the Royal Australasian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) in 1995.

After working at the Mater Centre in Radiation Oncology she moved to the Princess Alexandra Hospital in 2002. Dr Harvey has been a Senior Staff Specialist since 2004.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS
Dr Harvey is dedicated to clinical research and is actively involved on management committees concerned with several national and international research trials, some funded by The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). In her clinical practice she also seeks to provide patients with an opportunity to participate in all relevant clinical trials.

Dr Harvey has been published in over 50 peer review journals and is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Queensland, teaching medical students and registrars in radiation oncology.

AWARDS & MEMBERSHIPS
Dr Harvey is a member of the following organisations:

- Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group (TROG)
- Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA)
- Australia and New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group (ANZBCTG)
- Australian Society of Breast Diseases (ASBD).
- Australian Gastrointestinal Trials Group (AGITG)
- European Society of Therapeutic Radiation Oncology (ESTRO).
Dr Andrew Pullar MBBS, FRANZCR

SPECIALIST AREAS
Dr Andrew Pullar has over 20 years experience in medicine and has expertise in Stereotactic Radiation Therapy. His primary area of interest is in the management of CNS (Central Nervous System) malignancies.

Other regions of interest include skin malignancies, adolescent and young adult malignancies, spinal tumours, sarcomas, oligometastatic disease and new cancer therapy technologies.

EDUCATION
Dr Pullar completed his medical degree at the University of Queensland, Brisbane in 1995. He commenced his specialist training in radiation oncology at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital (RBWH) and Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH) in 2000 and was made a fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR), Faculty of Radiation Oncology in 2005.

Since 2006 he has worked as a Radiation Oncology consultant at the PAH Ipswich Road and Raymond Terrace campuses. He provides Paediatric Radiation Oncology services for the Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital (LCCH) at the South Brisbane PAH campus. Dr Pullar is also a lecturer in radiation therapy at the Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS
Dr Pullar is involved with multiple TROG and COGNO based trials at the PAH. He has also been involved in local Stereotactic Radiation Therapy studies along with IMRT (Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy) Quality Assurance, Planning Software and Information Software studies.

AWARDS & MEMBERSHIPS
Dr Pullar is a member of Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group (TROG), the Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-Oncology (COGNO), Society of Neuro-Oncology (SNO); Children’s Oncology Group (COG) and the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP).
Dr Howard Liu BPhty(Hons), MBBS, FRANZCR

SPECIALIST AREAS
Dr Howard Liu is a Radiation Oncologist at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. He has a specialised interest in head and neck oncology, stereotactic body radiation therapy, skin cancer and sarcoma management.

EDUCATION
Dr Liu obtained a Bachelor of Physiotherapy degree with honours at the University of Queensland in 2006 before completing his medical degree at Griffith University in 2010. He began his residency at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital and commenced specialist training in Radiation Oncology in 2013.

His specialist training was undertaken throughout Queensland at various hospitals, including Princess Alexandra Hospital, Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital, Mater Hospital and Townsville Hospital. In 2017, Dr Liu returned to the Princess Alexandra Hospital and commenced a clinical research fellowship in head and neck oncology, and stereotactic body radiation therapy.

Dr Liu was awarded fellowship with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) Faculty of Radiation Oncology and appointed as a Staff Specialist at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in 2018.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS
Dr Liu is actively involved in clinical and translational research in the fields of head and neck oncology, and stereotactic body radiation therapy. He has publications in peer review journals and presented clinical research studies at conferences both nationally and internationally. He is a Senior Lecturer for the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Queensland and has a passion for teaching medical students, pre-vocational and specialist-in-training doctors in the Queensland Radiation Oncology Training Network.

AWARDS & MEMBERSHIPS
Dr Liu has a key interest in improving quality of radiation therapy delivery and maintaining standards of radiation therapy practice. He is a member of the Quality Improvement Committee of the RANZCR Faculty of Radiation Oncology and partakes in the eviQ treatment protocol reference committee for head and neck oncology.

Dr Liu is also a member of the following organisations:
Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group (TROG)
European Society of Therapeutic Radiation Oncology (ESTRO)
Dr Yoo Young (Dominique) Lee MBChB, FRANZCR

SPECIALIST AREAS
Dr Yoo Young (Dominique) Lee is a Radiation Oncologist at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. Her areas of special interest include Stereotactic Body Ablative Radiotherapy (SABR), upper gastrointestinal/hepatobiliary cancers and management of palliative cancer patients.

EDUCATION
Dr Lee completed her undergraduate degree in Medicine and Surgery at the University of Otago in 2005. She commenced her specialist training in radiation oncology at Auckland City Hospital and completed her training at Liverpool Hospital in Sydney and was made a fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR), Faculty of Radiation Oncology in 2014.

Subsequently, Dr Lee undertook an 18-month Clinical Research Fellowship investigating the use of SABR at the Westmead Hospital in Sydney. During this period, she successfully implemented Liver, Spine/Bone SABR programmes across the Sydney West Radiation Oncology Network.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS
Dr Lee is actively engaged in clinical research with a particular focus on SABR. She is the Principle Investigator of a Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group (TROG) supported clinical trial in liver SABR (LARK).

Dr Lee is also the co-author of the position paper on particle therapy – RANZCR which aims to inform cancer professionals and patients about the current status of particle therapy internationally and provides recommendations for assessing Australia and New Zealand patients for referral overseas for particle therapy.

AWARDS & MEMBERSHIPS
Dr Lee is an active member of the Tras-Tasman and Radiation Oncology Group and also sits on the Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Cancer Trials Group (AGITG) Radiation Oncology Sub-committee.
Our Radiation Therapists work in several areas of the Radiation Oncology Department. They design and deliver your radiation treatment as prescribed by your Specialist Doctor (Radiation Oncologist).

What role do the Radiation Therapists have in my care?

- **CT planning**: Radiation Therapists work out the best way to position you for your treatment. They take CT scans (X-ray pictures) to identify the part of your body where radiation needs to be applied and then record information so that your treatment can be designed and delivered accurately.

- **Dosimetry**: Radiation Therapists use a specialised computer system to design the radiation therapy plan prescribed for you by your Radiation Oncologist.

- **Treatment**: Radiation Therapists position you and administer radiation to your treatment area using a machine called a linear accelerator. This is done following the instructions outlined in your radiation therapy plan.

- **Quality assurance**: Radiation Therapists take scans or X-ray pictures before administering treatment to check that your radiation therapy is targeting the correct area. These X-ray pictures are reviewed by your Radiation Oncologist.

- **Clinical trials**: Radiation Therapists may also work in a clinical trials role, collecting information for research studies looking at new ways of treating cancer.

- **Research**: At our centre, Radiation Therapists also participate in research activities which aim to improve patient care and treatment results.
Our Oncology Nurses can be approached anytime for medical care and radiation therapy advice. If you have any treatment related concerns please go to the Nurse Station desk and ask for assistance.

What can the Oncology Nurses help me with?

- Pre-treatment education
- Referral to Allied Health services e.g. Physiotherapy
- Information regarding transport options
- Advice about managing radiation side effects
- Assistance with skin care and wound management
- Management of radiation related health concerns
- Review of treatment related medications
- Pain management
- Monitoring of pacemakers and defibrillators
- Post treatment care telephone review
Our Radiation Oncology Medical Physicists make sure that radiation therapy is delivered safely and accurately. They monitor all equipment and processes used to design and deliver radiation therapy.

What role do the Medical Physicists have in my care?

- **Commissioning and quality assurance**: Medical Physicists regularly measure and calibrate the radiation output of the treatment machines to ensure that your radiation therapy is administered as planned.

- **Research and development**: Medical Physicists research and implement new radiation therapy techniques. These techniques improve treatment results.

- **Radiation safety**: Medical Physicists monitor all radiation therapy procedures to ensure the safety of patients, visitors and members of the general public.

- **Patient specific quality assurance**: Medical Physicists provide an additional check of radiation therapy plans to ensure all calculations are correct and treatment requirements are met.
Our department has a range of Allied Health services that can be accessed during and after your treatment. If you require Allied Health support please see our Nurses.

**What can the Allied Health team help me with?**

- **Physiotherapists** - Aim to restore physical functioning and fitness by managing cancer symptoms and the effects of treatment. Individualised programs and/or group based exercise classes are available.

- **Occupational Therapists** - Help you maintain or maximise your independence, enabling you to do the things that are meaningful to you. We offer strategies to overcome physical, emotional and cognitive problems caused by cancer and its treatment.

- **Dietitians** - Provide dietary advice and support to help keep you well nourished during your treatment and recovery period. We can help you manage side effects to ensure that you have the optimal nutrition.

- **Speech Pathologists** - Provide support, assessment and management for people having difficulty with swallowing, eating and drinking or communicating as a result of their cancer or the treatment they receive.

- **Social Workers** - Assist in dealing with the emotional and practical issues that may arise because of your illness or the illness of a loved one. We help patients (outpatients or inpatients), families, and carers. We also provide a referral pathway to community services.
Information About Planning

Produced by: Radiation Oncology Dept, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Ipswich Road Campus, Division of Cancer Services, Metro South Health
Before you start your radiation therapy, you will be asked to attend a “Planning Session” at our department.

During this session, the information needed to design your radiation therapy will be obtained.

What happens when I arrive for my planning session?

• When you arrive please check in at the Radiation Oncology reception desk located on the Ground Floor (Zone E/F) in the main hospital building.

• The Receptionist will note your attendance and ask you to complete some forms concerning your general health.

• A Radiation Therapist will meet you in the waiting room and explain the planning procedure and any preparation required. This preparation may involve drinking water to fill your bladder, ensuring your bowels are empty or taking a medication.

• Sometimes no preparation is necessary; however, this will depend on the part of your body that requires treatment.

• Your Radiation Oncologist or a member of their team will also be available to answer any questions you may have.

• If you have not already done so, you will be asked to sign a consent form before proceeding to the next step.
Finding The Best Position For Treatment

An important step in your radiation therapy planning is establishing how your body will be positioned for treatment. This is done by the Radiation Therapists.

How will the Radiation Therapists position me?

• Firstly, the Radiation Therapists will take you to the CT Scanning room.

• They may ask you to remove any items of clothing or jewellery that are in the way of the area to be scanned.

• The Radiation Therapists will ask you to lie down on the bed of the CT scanner.

• They will position you in a comfortable and stable manner that is appropriate for your treatment. This may require the use of specialised equipment to help keep you still.

• This equipment can include a bean bag, foam cushions, arm supports or a personalised face mask.

• The type of equipment used depends on the location of your treatment area. A mask may only be required when radiation therapy is given to the head or neck region.

• If you feel any discomfort when lying in a certain way please tell the Radiation Therapists so they can alter your position to make you more comfortable.
A specialised CT scan is required to identify and map the part of your body where the radiation therapy needs to be applied.

What does the planning CT scan involve?

- The Radiation Therapists will measure the region of your body that will be scanned. They may draw marks on your skin with a felt tip pen. These marks will wash off.

- Small stickers will be placed on the skin to provide reference points visible on the CT scans (X-ray pictures). These stickers will be removed after the scan is done.

- The Radiation Therapists will then move the CT scanner bed into the CT scanner (the open ring or “doughnut” that takes the scans).

- The CT scanner opening is very wide and not enclosed at the end, so you will not be in a confined space.

- The Radiation Therapists will move behind a glass screen to start the scanner. You will hear a whirring sound and feel the bed move back and forth during scanning.

- It is important to keep still and breathe normally unless otherwise told. The Radiation Therapists will be able to see, hear and speak to you during the scan.
After the CT Scan is complete the Radiation Therapists will record how you are positioned and the area on your body where the treatment is going to be applied.

**How is the location of my treatment area recorded?**

- The Radiation Therapists will take photographs of how you are positioned and the area to be treated. All photographs are kept in a confidential location.

- The Therapists may place several tiny tattoo dots on your skin. These are *very small* permanent marks that help locate your planned treatment area.

- If you have a personalised mask made for your treatment, no tattoos will be placed on the skin. Instead marks are drawn on your personalised mask.

- At the end of the planning session the Therapists will help you to sit up and get dressed. A face photo is then taken to identify you for your radiation treatment.
Once the Radiation Therapists have collected all the information required to plan your treatment, our Nursing and Administration teams will review and organise your care to meet your individual needs.

What happens after finishing my planning session?

- One of our specialised Radiation Oncology Nurses will meet with you to discuss your treatment and to provide advice about skin care and managing other side effects.

- The Nurse will show you around the department and talk to you about transport needs.

- This is also a chance to discuss referral to members of our Allied Health team i.e. Physiotherapist, Dietitian etc.

- Before leaving the department, you will also meet with one of our Administration team who will tell you when your treatment will start and discuss your future treatment appointments.

- If you require certain appointment times for your treatment please let our Administration team know and they will try to accommodate your requests.
What does dosimetry involve?

• Firstly, dosimetry does not require your attendance at our centre. It’s done behind the scenes by a Radiation Therapist and your Radiation Oncologist.

• The dosimetry process takes time. This is why there is a delay between CT planning and the start of treatment.

• Your Radiation Oncologist uses a highly specialised computer system to view your CT planning scan and to outline your treatment area.

• They also prescribe the amount of radiation this area is to receive and the number of treatment sessions required.

• A Radiation Therapist then processes this information on a computer to design a treatment plan that targets your tumour site while limiting radiation exposure to healthy organs.

• This treatment plan displays the radiation distribution in your body (as specified by your Radiation Oncologist) and the treatment machine settings required to achieve it.
To make sure that your treatment plan is accurate, several checks are performed prior to radiation therapy delivery. This process involves the Radiation Therapists, Physicists and Radiation Oncologists.

**How do you ensure my treatment plan is correct?**

- After a Radiation Therapist completes your treatment plan it is double-checked by another Radiation Therapist.

- A Radiation Oncologist also reviews the treatment plan prior to radiation therapy delivery.

- In some cases our Physicists may take real time radiation measurements using specialised electronic equipment to confirm the accuracy of your treatment plan.

- Treatment plans are also discussed in a group forum held weekly by our department’s Specialist Doctor team.

- Throughout the planning process all activities are managed and recorded using an electronic data base to ensure information is documented correctly.

- Once your treatment plan has been evaluated by a Senior Radiation Therapist, approved by a Radiation Oncologist and if necessary measured by a Physicist it is then ready to be administered.
Information About Treatment

Produced by: Radiation Oncology Dept, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Ipswich Road Campus, Division of Cancer Services, Metro South Health
When you have radiation therapy at our centre you can expect to receive comprehensive care in a comfortable and friendly environment. To help us provide this service there are a few steps we would like you to follow.

**What should I do when I arrive for treatment?**

- On arrival, please check in at our Radiation Oncology reception desk located on Ground Floor (Zone E/F) in the main hospital building. The Receptionist will register your attendance and direct you to a designated waiting room.

- The Receptionist will also issue your treatment and allied health appointment times, please check that these times are suitable and do not conflict with any other appointments you may have.

- If you have a nuclear medicine appointment scheduled for a **PET or Bone scan** please tell the Receptionist.

- Please follow any pre-treatment instructions provided at your CT planning session. These may relate to bladder/bowel preparation or medications that you need to take prior to treatment.

- To help us avoid treatment delays please arrive at your scheduled appointment time or call us at the earliest opportunity if you are running late.
What can I expect on my first day of treatment?

- A Radiation Therapist will call you from the waiting room and identify you by name and date of birth.

- They will then explain your treatment procedure and check that any pre-treatment instructions given have been followed. For example, bladder and bowel preparation or taking of medication (only if required).

- After this discussion the Therapist will escort you into one of our treatment rooms. As a rule family and friends are not permitted into this area.

- Inside the treatment room you will see a large machine called a Linear Accelerator. This machine electrically generates radiation so there is no ongoing radioactivity.

- Depending on your treatment area, you may be asked to remove items of clothing and jewellery. A sheet will be used to cover you, however if you feel more comfortable wearing a hospital gown one can be provided.

- Once changed, you are then required to lie down on the motorised bed connected to the linear accelerator.

Radiation therapy is a made to order treatment designed to manage individual conditions. While some patients may have a similar treatment to yours, it will not be exactly the same.
When the Radiation Therapists leave the treatment room it is important to keep still and breath normally. From the control area the Therapists operate the linear accelerator and check settings before delivering the treatment.

What happens when the Radiation Therapists are in the control area and I am alone in the treatment room?

- Even though you are alone in the treatment room the Radiation Therapists can still see, hear and speak to you via a closed circuit camera and intercom system.

- In the majority of cases the Radiation Therapists will begin by setting the linear accelerator to take a digital X-ray image of your treatment area.

- During this scan the linear accelerator may rotate around you and produce a continuous buzzing sound.

- After finishing the scan, the Therapists may take a few minutes to review the images. A computer program also checks the scan and displays measurements of how accurately you are aligned.

- Usually a small adjustment in your position is required to precisely align your planned treatment area.

- You may hear a clicking sound and feel the bed move as this adjustment is automatically made.

• After your treatment area is precisely matched to your planned position the linear accelerator is programmed to administer the radiation therapy.

• Once activated, the linear accelerator produces a loud buzzing sound and may rotate around you as it directs a controlled beam of radiation through your treatment area.

• The total amount of time treatment takes (including positioning) is on average no more than 20 minutes. However this can vary depending on the area being treated and the radiation therapy technique applied.
Is there anything I need to do after my treatment?

• After your treatment session is complete you may still have other appointments to attend with our Allied Health team. If you are unsure please ask at reception.

• It is recommended that you confirm your next treatment appointment at the reception desk before leaving the department. This may help avoid confusion should any changes arise.

• Depending on your treatment area our health care team may give you specific instructions relating to medications, skin care, diet or exercise. It is important to follow this advice as it may help reduce side effects and improve your treatment outcome.

• If you are having multiple treatments, it is unlikely that you will experience any side effects immediately. This is because radiation effects gradually build up over time. However if you feel unwell or are concerned about side effects please speak to our Nurses.
General enquiries phone: (07) 3176 6586
Nursing care advice phone: (07) 3176 1967
Medical emergencies phone: 000
(Urgent ambulance assistance only)

For general enquiries please call our reception between the hours of 8:00am to 5:00pm.

If you are a patient attending for radiation therapy and need to discuss appointments, calls can be made to the general enquiries line between our treatment hours of 8:00am to 8:30pm

Address information:
Princess Alexandra Hospital, Radiation Oncology Department
Main Hospital Building
Ground Level Zone E/F (Orange Lifts)
199 Ipswich Road
Woolloongabba QLD 4102

Transport contacts:
Ambulance transport Brisbane ph: 131 233
Ambulance transport Ipswich / Logan ph: (07) 5531 2121
DVA transport ph: (07) 3223 8444

Public Transport:
Bus services available at PA Hospital Bus Station
Train services via Park Road or Dutton Park Stations

Parking facilities:
Free on-site under cover parking is available for patients receiving radiation treatment. Access to the cancer services car park requires a security code and permit. This can be obtained prior to treatment from our reception.

Entry road from GATE 3 to “Cancer Services Parking”. If this car park is full, paid parking is available within the hospital grounds or in commercial car parks on Ipswich Rd.