



## NEW PATIENT WELCOME

Welcome to Anchorage Radiation Therapy Center.

In preparation for this appointment, we will be collaborating with your physicians to be certain we have compiled an accurate medical record for your initial consultation.

We would also like to take a moment to describe what your initial appointment will entail. Enclosed, please find a few forms that we would appreciate you taking the time to complete. If you would bring these forms along with your driver's license, insurance card(s), and a current list of medications, if any, to your first appointment, this will be very helpful.

We value your time and will strive to maintain a timely appointment schedule. We have allocated 1.5 hours for your consultation with the radiation oncologist. You will first meet with one of our nurses who will review your past and current medical history. Next you will meet with the physician who will talk with you about your cancer diagnosis and the role that radiation therapy may have in the treatment of your cancer. During this time the physician may also perform a physical exam.

During your visit with the radiation oncologist, we welcome your questions and concerns. Many patients find it helpful to start a notebook where they can write down their questions and document the responses. We would also encourage you to bring a family member or friend to your appointment. Like the old saying goes, "two ears are better than one." During this time in your life, you will likely feel overwhelmed and it is important to know that it is okay to ask others for help.

Often when patients are scheduled to meet with a radiation oncologist we learn from them that they were under the impression they would be starting treatment that very same day. There is much to be done in getting a patient planned to start radiation therapy, and some of this may involve collaboration with other physicians as radiation therapy may be just one of the treatment modalities used to treat your cancer.

If it is agreed that radiation therapy is the right treatment option for you, we will work with your schedule to start the treatment planning process. The planning process can usually start within a day or so of your initial appointment with the radiation oncologist. We refer to the first treatment planning appointment as your "simulation." This appointment is about an hour in length and is where the radiation oncologist will map out the anatomical area to be treated. When the simulation is complete, we will work with you to create your treatment schedule.

In general, once radiation treatments begin, you will be treated each day, Monday-Friday for a series of weeks. Most treatments take 15-30 minutes to complete. After you meet with the radiation oncologist, s/he will let you know how many weeks it will take to deliver your treatments.

As we navigate and work to support you throughout this journey, please let us know how we can better assist you. There are many resources available within the community, so please share with us your needs so that we can connect you with these valuable offerings.

Very Sincerely Yours,

The Physicians and Staff at  
Anchorage Radiation Therapy Center