

Radiotherapy FAQs

How do I get to the Bristol Oncology Centre?

We are on Horfield Road, behind the Bristol Royal Infirmary. Access is from Horfield Road off St Michael's Hill.

Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre
Horfield Road
Bristol
BS2 8ED

[View a map of the hospital and surrounding area.](#)

Full information on travelling to UHBW can be found [here](#).

Is there easy access to parking?

There is a small car park available at the Bristol Oncology Centre. The car park is pay and display and you must get a ticket when you arrive.

Our Pay and Display parking charges apply between 6am and 6pm daily at our city centre hospital sites:

- First 30 minutes is free
- up to 1 hour £1.80
- 1-2 hours £3.40
- 2-4 hours £5.80
- 4-6 hours £7.10
- 6-8 hours £12:00
- over 8 hours £15:00

If you are a Blue Badge holder, you will be able to park free of charge in any of our parking spaces (apart from the 15 minute drop-off spaces) as long as your Blue Badge is correctly displayed.

For people attending the Bristol Oncology Centre for more than one day a special ticket can be obtained from the main reception which allows you to park for a cheaper rate for the week. Please ask the receptionist about this.

Can I have hospital transport?

The patient transport service (PTS) is provided for patients who require the specialist support of an ambulance crew to travel.

You are eligible for patient transport if:

- Your medical condition means you cannot use other transport without damaging your health.
- Your mobility means you are unable to access healthcare by any other means.
- You need the skills or support of clinically trained staff and / or medical equipment during your journey.

Transport could also be provided to a patient's escort or carer where their particular skills and/or support are needed. This may be appropriate in the case of accompanying a person with a physical or mental incapacity, a vulnerable adult, or in the case of patients needing a translator. This would need to be agreed for each individual case at the time of booking the transport.

Hospital staff will arrange ambulance transport for discharge journeys if you are eligible, but you will need to arrange outpatient journeys yourself.

If you believe you qualify for the patient transport service (PTS), and need to arrange a journey for an outpatient appointment, you will need to contact your local Patient Transport Advice Centre to arrange your transport. They will check whether you are eligible and help you make travel arrangements.

You will need to have ready:

- your appointment letter with your NHS number
- the name of the GP practice to which you are registered.
- If you need further guidance and support, or need help establishing which is your CCG, please speak to a member of staff in the relevant outpatient area, or your GP surgery.

How do I find the Radiotherapy Department?

The radiotherapy department is located in D201 in the Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre. D is the zone (BHO is zone D), 2 is the floor, and then the last two numbers are the location number. So you will find Radiotherapy Reception in Zone D, level 2.

How do I change an appointment?

If you receive your list of appointments and you need to change them prior to starting your treatment please contact the Radiotherapy Bookings Team, on 0117 342 3103. If you need to change an appointment once you have started your treatment please ask the radiographers and they will do their best to accommodate any requests

Is there any risk to my friends and family while I am having radiotherapy?

No. There is no risk to your friends and family while you are receiving or after radiotherapy treatment. Once the machine is switched off the radiation is switched off. The radiation does not stay in the body so you cannot harm anyone else.

Can I have an interpreter?

If you require an interpreter one should have already been arranged for you. If you think an interpreter is required and has not been arranged then we can arrange for one to be present at your first appointment and any review appointments and consultations. Ideally friends and family members should not be used as interpreters. Please contact the Radiotherapy Bookings Team on 0117 342 3103 if you have any queries regarding an interpreter.

Can I keep my clothes on?

In order to maintain your dignity during treatment we only ask that clothing which covers the area to be treated is removed during treatment. Gowns and slipper socks can be provided.

Why is my treatment and the number of appointments different to other peoples?

Everybody's treatment is individually planned. The number of appointments can vary depending on the treatment site and what the consultant has planned. Do not worry if your appointments differ to somebody else's.

Can friends or family come with me?

Friends or family are more than welcome to attend with you. They will not be able to come in the room with you while you have the treatment but they can be there for consultations and review appointments.

Am I alone during my treatment?

You are alone during treatment. However the radiographers can see you at all times on CCTV and can talk to you via an intercom if you wish.

How will radiotherapy affect my day to day life?

Depending on the area being treated, radiotherapy can cause specific side effects. Your consultant should have given you some written information about these side effects and the radiographers will discuss these with you when you come for your first radiotherapy appointment.

Generally treatment may cause tiredness and this can mean that you need to take more time to complete everyday tasks and take regular breaks. However many people find that they can carry on working and continuing a normal routine.

Will my radiotherapy treatment hurt?

You will not see or feel anything during your treatment. You will just hear the machine making a buzzing noise which is normal.

Do I see a doctor during my treatment?

You will not normally see a doctor during your course of radiotherapy. Everybody's treatment and well-being is closely monitored throughout and you may be seen in a Treatment Review Clinic. These clinics are run by specially trained radiographers to monitor how well you are coping with your treatment. The radiographers can also ensure that you have the correct medication and advice to be able to manage any treatment side-effects. If you have any problems and you do not have a review appointment booked that day please speak to one of the radiographers and they can give you advice.

Will I still be able to drive?

Many patients carry on driving during treatment but if you feel unwell or tired, it is better to ask someone else to drive for you. If your consultant thinks it might be best for you not to drive, they will discuss this with you.

Can I miss any treatments?

Your consultant will decide the number of treatment sessions necessary for your radiotherapy and it is important you attend these appointments. Some patients may need to attend on Bank holidays or Saturdays. If you have other appointments that you need to attend during this time please discuss this with the radiographers and they will try to arrange your radiotherapy to accommodate them. If you do miss a treatment then another appointment will be added to the end of your list.

Can I have the flu vaccination while I am having radiotherapy?

You may be offered the flu vaccination. If you are just having radiotherapy it is ok for you to have the flu vaccine.

What happens after I have finished my radiotherapy?

Some side effects of your treatment may continue after you have completed your radiotherapy. We will tell you about these and provide you with an Aftercare Telephone number so you can contact us if you have any concerns or questions. You will also receive a follow-up appointment to an outpatient clinic where you will see a doctor to discuss your treatment and your progress. You will usually continue to attend outpatient clinics for several years after your treatment.