

## Your Radiation Therapy Consult Visit: What to Expect



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This handout describes what to expect at a radiation therapy consult visit. It has answers to some of the most common questions patients ask. If you have any further questions after reading this, speak with your doctor or nurse.

## What is radiation therapy?

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Radiation therapy (also called radiotherapy) is a cancer treatment that uses high doses of radiation to kill cancer cells and stop them from growing. Radiation therapy is used to:

- **Treat cancer.** Radiation can be used to cure, stop or slow the growth of cancer.
- **Lessen symptoms.** Radiation may be used to shrink cancer tumors to lessen pressure. Radiation used this way can help with problems such as pain or loss of bladder control.

## What is a consult visit?

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Your first visit to radiation therapy is called a **consult visit**. The Radiation Therapy department is also called **Radiation Oncology**.

At this visit, you will meet the radiation doctor, find out about having radiation and get your questions answered. **You will not get radiation treatment at the consult visit.** In some cases, a CT scan will be done at this visit.



*Meet the radiation doctor and get your questions answered at your consult visit.*

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## What will happen at the consult visit?

This is a basic outline of what to expect at your first radiation therapy visit. This visit may take one to two hours.

Staff member	What will happen?
Front Desk Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Checks you in and asks you to fill out any needed forms.</li></ul>
Medical Assistant (also called an MA) or Radiation Nurse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brings you back and gets your blood.</li><li>• Takes you to an exam room.</li></ul>
Your Radiation Nurse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meets with you to get a history of your health problems.</li><li>• Goes over your med list.</li><li>• Reviews your current health problems.</li></ul>
Your Radiation Doctor (also called a Radiation Oncologist)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reviews your past health problems and meds you are taking.</li><li>• Reviews recent scans you have had.</li><li>• Does a physical exam.</li><li>• Talks to you about:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– How radiation therapy can help you</li><li>– Side effects you may have</li><li>– Any questions you have</li></ul></li><li>• Explains the consent form you will need to sign if you decide to have radiation treatments.</li></ul>
Front Desk Staff or Your Doctor's Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Schedules your next visit.</li></ul>

## You may also be seen by a:

### Dietitian

- Answers your questions and helps you choose the best food and drinks during treatment.

### Social Worker

- Helps you deal with daily challenges of cancer.
- Can assist you and your loved ones in a number of ways.

# Common Questions and Answers

## Where can I park?

If your consult visit is at UH Seidman Cancer Center at UH Cleveland Medical Center:

- Drop your car off with the valet at UH Seidman Cancer Center or Lerner Tower main entrance off UH Drive
  - or -
- Park in the UH Drive visitor garage



**If your consult visit is at any community site**, park in their parking lot. UH Geauga Medical Center also offers free valet parking.

## Will I have to pay for parking?

The first 2 hours of parking in the visitor garage at UH Seidman Cancer Center at UH Cleveland Medical Center is free. The Radiation Oncology staff will give you a parking pass if your visit is longer than 2 hours. **The pass does not cover valet costs.** To find out parking prices, call the Parking Office at 216-844-7275.

**Parking at our community sites is free.**

## Should I eat before my visit?

You can eat before your consult visit. Ask your doctor or nurse if you can eat on the days you get treatment.

## Should I take my routine meds?

Take your meds as usual before your consult visit.

## What should I bring?

- A list of the meds you take. Include over-the-counter meds, herbs, vitamins and supplements.
- Driver's license or photo ID.
- Insurance card.
- Items to help pass the time, such as books, word puzzles, music or a computer. Wi-Fi access is free.

# Common Questions and Answers

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## **What should I wear?**

- Wear loose, comfortable clothing. Dress in layers or wear something that zips or buttons in the front. This will make it simpler to change into a hospital gown if needed.
- Bring a jacket or sweater because sometimes it's cold in the exam areas.

## **Where do I check in?**

### **If your consult visit is scheduled for UH Seidman Cancer Center at UH Cleveland Medical Center:**

- Check in at Radiation Oncology on the lower level of the UH Seidman Cancer Center. Come in the main entrance through the revolving doors. Take the lobby elevators one floor down to the lower level.

### **If your consult visit is scheduled for the Bolwell Building at UH Cleveland Medical Center:**

- Check in at Radiation Oncology in the basement of the Bolwell Building, Suite B-200. Come in through the revolving doors at the University Hospitals/Lerner Tower main entrance. Or, enter through the enclosed walkway from the UH Drive garage. Go to the main desk on the first floor of Lerner Tower and ask for directions to Bolwell B-200.

### **If your consult visit is scheduled at one of our community sites:**

- Check in at the front desk.

## **What if I have questions about my bill?**

### **If you have billing questions, you can call one of our financial officers listed below:**

- For last names A – M, call: 216-286-3814
- For last names N – Z, call: 216-286-3809

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## Let us know about your needs

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If you need a ride to your radiation therapy consult visit, let your doctor or nurse know. Our social workers can help with transit and other day-to-day needs. If you need a wheelchair once you arrive, ask the staff at the front entrance to help you. Tell your doctor or nurse if you have special cultural, religious or learning needs.

## Speak up and ask questions

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Write down questions you have before your consult visit. Talk to your doctor or nurse about these questions and any others that come up during the visit. Make sure your questions are answered before you leave.



**Talk to your doctor or nurse about any questions or concerns you have at your radiation therapy consult visit.**



[UHSeidman.org](http://UHSeidman.org)