

Radiation Therapy



>>What is Radiation Therapy?

Radiation Therapy is also known as Radiation Oncology. It is the treatment and management of cancer by radiation which may cure or relieve symptoms. Radiation Therapy may be used alone or with other treatment modalities like surgery and chemotherapy. The ionizing radiation used in the treatment of cancer is x-rays, gamma rays and electron beams.

A Radiation Therapist is a member of the professional team managing cancer patients along with radiation oncologists, nurses, medical physicists and other allied health professionals. In conjunction with the Radiation Oncologist, they are responsible for the design, accurate calculation and delivery of a prescribed radiation dose over a course of treatment to the patient. The Radiation Therapist utilises sophisticated equipment and computers to create a treatment plan to deliver the optimum dose to the tumour whilst minimising the dose delivered to healthy tissue. The radiation therapist works in a highly advanced technical profession that requires excellent people skills.

Where do these professionals work in Tasmania?

Radiation Therapists work in the Launceston General Hospital and the Royal Hobart Hospital.

How do these professionals work in DHHS?

In Tasmania radiation therapists work in the Department of Radiation Oncology (WP Holman Clinics) at the Royal Hobart Hospital and the Launceston general Hospital.

What qualifications and regulations are required to practice?

Completion of a graduate entry masters course accredited by AIR.

Completion of an accredited undergraduate course of 3 years together with one year Professional Development Year (PDY) in an approved radiation oncology department.

An Australian Institute of Radiography Statement of Accreditation

The Australian Institute of Radiography is the assessing body for overseas trained qualifications.

Radiation Therapists need to be registered with the Tasmanian Medical Radiation Science Professional Registration Board.

Useful links

http://www.air.asn.au/html/s01_home/home.asp