

What happens when you finish Radiation Treatment for advanced cancer?

This information is designed to work with a Cancer Society booklet called Advanced Cancer. Together they help you know how to look after yourself after radiation treatment.

This information gives you some contact information so you know who to call if you are worried about your side effects.

What should I do if my side effects continue?

After your treatment has finished it carries on working. This means any side effects you have now may carry on or get worse over the next 10 – 14 days. You may also develop new ones.

Please continue to follow the advice you have been given by your treatment team. The information sheet you were given about how to look after yourself during treatment can be useful to look at if you cannot remember what to do about a side effect.

If you are worried about your side effects please phone the numbers listed below. The best one for you to contact is highlighted.

Contact phone numbers:

LA1 (04) 806 2031

LA2 (04) 806 2029

LA3 (04) 806 2028

Brachytherapy (04) 806 2024

Superficial (SXR) (04) 806 2024

RT Nurses (04) 806 2026

Other Support

You might have other healthcare professionals who look after you. These include:

- Hospice Care
- Community Nurses
- Other Hospital
- Care Coordination Service
- GP

These people may be the best people to talk to about your side effects and/or other health concerns. Your treatment team will talk to you about who to contact before your treatment finishes.

When will I see my Radiation Oncologist (Doctor)?

There are lots of different ways you may be followed up after treatment. Sometimes the Radiation Oncologist will book an appointment 2-8 weeks after treatment. Other times your care is handed over to another doctor. They may be in Medical Oncology, Palliative Care, The Hospice, or your Surgeon. Any of these teams can contact the Radiation Oncologist if they need to about your side effects or more treatment if it is needed.

If your appointment is not at Wellington Hospital, Paraparaumu or Keneperu you should receive a letter in the post with your appointment. If you have not received the letter within two weeks of finishing please call the outpatients department of your local hospital.

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How might I feel after treatment?

There are many different emotions people can feel after radiation treatment. Some people are excited, or relieved. Others can feel scared, anxious, and/or alone. It is normal to feel any of these emotions. In the information sheet we have given you there is a section about emotions. It can be helpful to have some extra support at this time.

What supports are available after Radiation Treatment?

Cancer Society Massage Counselling Social work
Support groups

Look Good Feel Better

Fit for Life Chaplains Pacific Health

Whanau Care Service

Please ask your treatment team if you would like a referral.

Contact us

Radiation Treatment Department

Level 2

Wellington Blood & Cancer Centre

Wellington Regional Hospital

Phone: (04) 806 2000

Hours: 8am-4.30pm, Monday to Friday

Urgent After Hours Advice:

5 North Ward oncology nurses are available for urgent after hours advice related to your treatment. This is after 4.30 and on weekends.

Phone: (04) 806 0418