

Radiation therapist briefing notes

Health Professionals' scenarios

Title

Radiation safety and communication

Summary/overview

This simulation provides an opportunity for participants to practise conducting themselves safely in a radiation therapy environment, based on the knowledge learned in the education session. Each participant will have an opportunity to enter the radiation therapy environment in their clinical role while the other participants observe. Each simulation may last up to 5 minutes. After each simulation, there will be a short 5 minute debrief led by the facilitator where the active participant and the observers can discuss any safety or communication issues which occurred in the simulation.

Learning objectives

At the conclusion of this simulation, participants will be able to:

1. Identify the key safety aspects involved with working in a radiation area.
2. Demonstrate the appropriate communication required when interacting with radiation therapists delivering patient treatment.
3. Demonstrate safe conduct in a radiation area.

Scenario

This simulation activity is set in a radiation therapy environment. There is a waiting area, console, and treatment room.

Participants' tasks

The aim is for participants to attempt to communicate with the radiation therapist or their patient, depending on their brief. They need to conduct themselves in a safe manner in the radiation therapy environment, and make a determination, based on the relevant signage, and status of the radiation therapist, how best to communicate.

DISCLAIMER

Care has been taken to confirm the accuracy of the information presented and to describe generally accepted practices. However, the authors and publisher are not responsible for perceived or actual inaccuracies, omissions or interpretation of the contents of this simulation. All characters appearing in this simulation are fictitious. Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

About your role as the Radiation Therapist

Scenario 1:

Non-treating radiation therapist:

- Seated at the console, away from the treating radiation therapist. Working on the computer.
- If approached by the participant, then greet them and assist them.
- If the participant approaches the treating radiation therapist, do not intervene until the treating radiation therapist asks you to assist.

Treating radiation therapist/s:

- Seated at the console near the monitors, operating the Linear Accelerator.
- You should ignore the participant unless the participant attempts to get your attention (eg. speaks or waves)
- If the participant attempts to get your attention, then respond, but indicate that the patient's treatment has been interrupted. Ask the person to speak to the non-treating radiation therapist.

Scenario 2:

Radiation therapist:

- You are in the treatment room, attending to a patient.
- If the participant calls out from the entrance of the treatment room, then respond to them appropriately and you may come around to speak to them at the treatment room entrance.
- If the participant enters the treatment room without invitation from the radiation therapist, then indicate that it is inappropriate for them to enter as the patient may be indecently exposed and they will be invading the patient's privacy as well as delaying the preparation for their treatment.

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