

**LSUHSC-Shreveport  
Radiation Oncology  
Proc. 19.3.1**

**Patient Assessment**

**Policy:**

The Department of Radiation Oncology will provide a structured approach in assessing and caring for patients being referred for consultation and receiving radiation therapy treatments. The Radiation Oncology nurse will properly assess the patient medical records prior to appointment and assess patient once they arrive in the department. All assessments will be documented on the patients assessment form approved by the department and information will be relayed to physician. The physicians and therapist will provide an on-going assessment of the patient during their treatment course document results on Radiation Therapy Treatment sheet.

**Procedures:**

1. When a request for consultation is received in the department, the nurses will review medical records for documentation of positive pathology and x-ray procedures performed pertinent to the diagnosis and staging.
2. Once medical records documentation is available, the nurse along with the physician will schedule patient for an appointment in accordance with hospital policy on consultations.
3. When the patient is first seen in the department, the nurse will assess patient according to the following criteria. Documentation of assessment will be recorded on the Radiation Therapy treatment booklet in the nursing assessment section.
  - a. Date of time of arrival
  - b. Patient's weight and height
  - c. Medication allergies
  - d. Complaints/physical problems
  - e. Pregnancy/last menstrual period
  - f. Previous Radiation Therapy Treatments
  - g. Lab results
  - h. Path report
4. After the nurse's assessment is complete the physician will consult patient and perform a complete assessment.
5. On initial consultations, nurses will perform a pain assessment on patient and document findings on the approved pain assessment/management form.

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6. On initial consultation, nurses will document current medications on Medication Assessment History form.
7. Patients will be assessed weekly during the treatment course; the physician and nurses will perform assessment.
8. Therapist treating patients will assess patients on a daily basis and document results on treatment folder. Therapist will inform physician of any issues that may arise during the patient treatment course.
9. Weekly CBC and Platelets will be obtained when ordered by physician. The Radiation Oncology department has standing orders for all patients, excluding palliative treatment plans of 10 treatments or less and another treatment plan designated by physician. Documentation of results will be recorded on the treatment booklet in the lab section and maintained in the radiation therapy chart. Nurses will inform physician if weekly results fall below values specified by physicians.
10. Patients are weighted on the initial consultation visit and on a weekly basis during their treatment course. Nurses will document results on the treatment folder and will be maintained in the treatment chart.
11. If patients experience a weight loss of 10% or more, the nurses will inform physician and a nutritional assessment and referral will be performed by the physician.

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