

Nursing Guidelines: Caring for Brachytherapy Patients

Prior to Radioactive Material Being Implanted:

1. Ensure that you have completed the *Caring for Radioactive Therapy Patients* training in Learning Exchange if you have not within the past 12 months.
2. Order disposable food service.
3. Complete any necessary room set up.
4. Obtain any required radiation monitors from OCRS.

Following Implantation of Radioactive Material:

1. Radiation Safety will post the room with “Caution: Radioactive Materials”
2. The patient is not to leave the room until radioactive sources have been removed or the patient has met the release criteria.
3. Always wear assigned radiation monitor before entering the patient room.
4. Do not clean the patient room
 - a. Linens and trash must remain within the room until removed or cleared by OCRS.
5. A lead shielded container and tweezers will be kept in the patient’s room. In the unlikely event that you find a piece of radioactive material outside of the patient’s body, use the tweezers to collect and store it in the shielded container.
 - a. Never touch the radioactive seeds or strands with your fingers.
 - b. Notify OCRS Radiation Safety and Radiation Oncology immediately.

Visitors:

1. Visitors are restricted to a dose limit of 100 mR/yr.
2. Pregnant Women and Minors (< 18 years) are not allowed
3. Specific Visitor Instructions are posted on the patient room door by OCRS.

If you have questions or need further information, contact OCRS Radiation Safety at 615-322-2057, or after hours use the OCRS Emergency Line 615-875-3779