

Nursing Guidelines: Caring for Brachytherapy Patients

Before the Patient is Loaded

1. Place the lead shields by the patient's bed.
2. Get a radiation badge to wear while caring for the patient. Write your name on the badge and also indicate which one you are using on the form.

After the Patient is Loaded

1. Radiation safety will put a "Caution, Radioactive Materials" sign on the door of the
2. Put your badge on before entering the room. If you take care of the patient on more than one day, use the same badge each time.
3. If a sealed source comes out of the catheter or fixture that is holding it in place in the patient, immediately contact the *Health Physicist on Call* and Radiation Oncology. Use tongs to pick up the source and place it in the lead container that has been left in the room.
4. After the radiation oncology physician removes the sources from the patient, radiation safety will monitor to verify that the radiation sources are gone. Radiation Safety will then remove the "Caution, Radioactive Materials" door sign.

Visitors

1. Visitors may visit a patient after he or she is dosed for one hour in a 24-hour period. They can divide up that time into 4 fifteen-minute visits or however they would like to, but the total time must not exceed one hour.
2. Encourage visitors to call the patient on the telephone.
3. Once they are in the room, they must stay 6 feet or more away from the patient.
4. Visitors cannot enter the room if they are pregnant.
5. Visitors must be at least 18 years old.

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