



## Your Care Team

At Apex Cancer Care, you will find a dedicated team of highly trained professionals who will work together to provide the care that is just right for you. Your radiation therapy team will include the following:

**Radiation Oncologist:** This is your doctor who specializes in the use of radiation for treating cancer. The radiation oncologist reviews all pertinent medical information to determine the most successful course of treatment for each patient. Your doctor will also work with other physicians and health care providers in determining the right plan of treatment for you. Once a course of treatment has been determined, the radiation oncologist will prescribe and plan how your treatment will be given. Your radiation oncologist also tracks your progress and adjusts the treatment, as necessary, to make sure you receive the safest and most effective treatment.

**Radiation Therapist:** Radiation therapists are highly skilled health care professionals who are integral members of the cancer care team. Radiation therapists use advanced computer systems to operate sophisticated radiation therapy equipment, such as a Linear Accelerator. The radiation therapist works closely with the radiation oncologists, medical physicists, and other members of the health care team. Since the course of radiation therapy can extend over several weeks, the radiation therapist is responsible for monitoring the condition of the patient and is required to assess if changes to the treatment plan are necessary. The therapist takes images of the targeted treatment area and reproduces the patient's positioning and plan parameters daily.



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**Medical Physicist and Dosimetrist:** The medical dosimetrist is responsible for designing a treatment plan and carrying out calculations for the delivery of radiation treatment based on the radiation oncologist's prescribed course of treatment. This treatment plan takes into consideration tumor pathology, tumor volume, and inherent dose-limiting structures surrounding the tumor. The treatment plan and radiation field placement techniques are constructed utilizing sophisticated computer equipment and technology. The medical dosimetrist, along with the radiation oncologist and medical physicist, works together to construct a treatment plan that meets the prescription written by the oncologist, ensuring minimal dose is delivered to healthy tissue. Once the treatment plan is complete, the medical dosimetrist works closely with the radiation therapists in the implementation of the prescribed plan.

**CT Technologist:** Before you begin your radiation treatments, you will first have a CT scan performed by the CT technologist. This person utilizes CT scans to produce cross-sectional images of your internal organs and tissues for your radiation therapy treatment plan. The CT technologist will construct an immobilization device that is used for your daily treatment and will aid the therapists in reproducing your exact position for each treatment. After the simulation, the CT technologist will review your images with the radiation oncologist. Once the scan is approved, the images will be sent over electronically, and enter the planning stage.

**Nurse:** This individual assists the radiation oncologist in clinical duties in the radiation therapy center. Some clinical duties that he or she performs include taking and recording vital signs and medical histories, preparing patients for medical examination, drawing blood, and administering medication as prescribed by the radiation oncologist.



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**Patient Service Representative:** This person will greet you when you arrive for your radiation appointments and is available to answer questions regarding billing, policies, and available services. He or she also files documentation and maintains a filing system for patient charts. This person will register you in our system by verifying that your record is up-to-date and accurate, and make appropriate changes in the computer system. They will also collect payment from you, apply the payments, and make any necessary adjustments to your accounts in your chart.