

My Radiotherapy



Journey

**Hello,
You're coming for
radiotherapy at
The Christie – let me show
you what will happen.**

PROTON BEAM THERAPY CENTRE



On your first visit you'll come to the proton beam therapy centre.

There are lots of spaces to play.



Meet your team

Here are some of the people you will meet – they will all look after you and your family:

Consultants – you will meet them during your visit to clinic and they will plan your treatment with you and your family.

Your key worker – will be a nurse or specialist radiographer who will co-ordinate and support you during your treatment.

Paediatric nurse clinicians and nurses – will review you, and do your blood tests.

Health play specialists – they will prepare you for everything involved in having your radiotherapy, show you models of the machines and make sure you have fun and feel supported all the time. They can also come with you when you have your scans and treatment.

Radiographers – are in charge of getting you in the right position, operating the machines that give your radiotherapy and are really good at looking after you too.



What actually happens when you come for radiotherapy at The Christie?

You will have quite a few things to do when you are here and before you start radiotherapy.



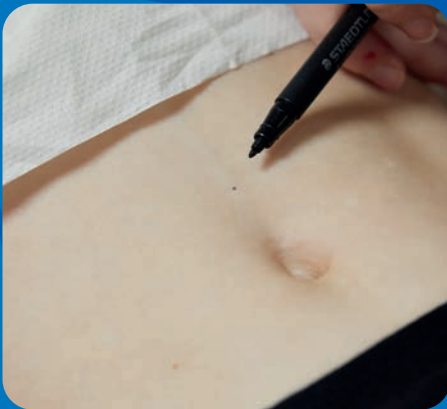
Have a look at some of the things we will be doing...



Preparation for radiotherapy with your team



Making a mask or vac-bag



Having small permanent marks



CT and sometimes MRI scan

Making a mask or vac-bag

How do we make masks and vac-bags?

When the material is soft, the radiographers can place it over the area that needs radiotherapy. It feels warm at first then cools down quickly.

You will have a neck rest so you can lie comfortably.



Vac-bags are flat bean bags – you lie on them and the air is removed. This makes the bag fit the shape of your body.





Making your mask or vac-bag

It takes about 10 minutes for the mask material to set.

You need to keep still when your mask or vac-bag is being made. You can relax and listen to your playlist or audiobook. The team will be by your side to support you.

You can also listen to music or an audio story.
What's on your playlist?



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Permanent marks

Sometimes you need some permanent marks on your skin.

Tiny marks help us to know you are in the right position each time you have radiotherapy – they will only need to be done once and your team will tell you all about them.



Can you see
how tiny
the mark is?



CT and MRI scanners

CT and MRI scanners take pictures of you which the doctors use to plan your radiotherapy.

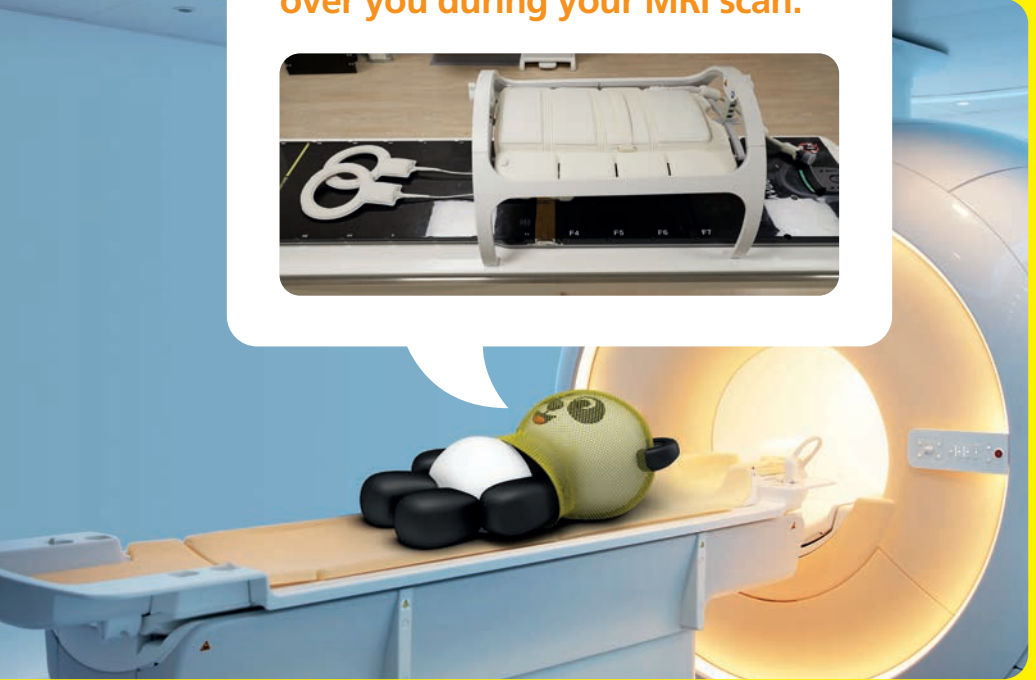
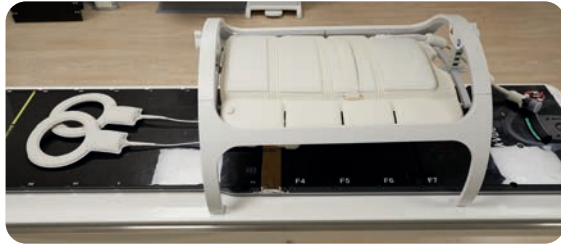
We use laser lines to make sure you are in the right position on the bed.

You need to stay very still during your scan so we can get really good pictures. Your mask or vac-bag will help you stay still.

You may need to have contrast for your CT or MRI scans. Contrast is a liquid that helps to make your scan pictures clearer. It is given through your line or a cannula.

Once all these tasks are complete you can go home – when your treatment plan is ready you will come back for radiotherapy.

This is a coil which may be placed over you during your MRI scan.



Let's have a look at the radiotherapy machine ...

This is the radiotherapy machine called a linac. It looks like a big camera and gives you radiotherapy that is invisible.

The bed can move into place and all you need to do is keep still. The machine can move around you and never touches you. You will wear your mask or lie in your vac-bag each time you have radiotherapy.

The machine makes a buzzing noise and you won't feel anything during your treatment.

The team will be watching you all the time on the cameras - so you will feel like you're on TV!





Clinic reviews with my team

Once you start your radiotherapy you will come to clinic once a week.

You will see your consultant, keyworker and one of the nurses to have some checks done. You can also stay and play if you would like to join in with the activities – or just go home when you are finished!





Puzzle page

Can you find the right path to all 3 pictures?



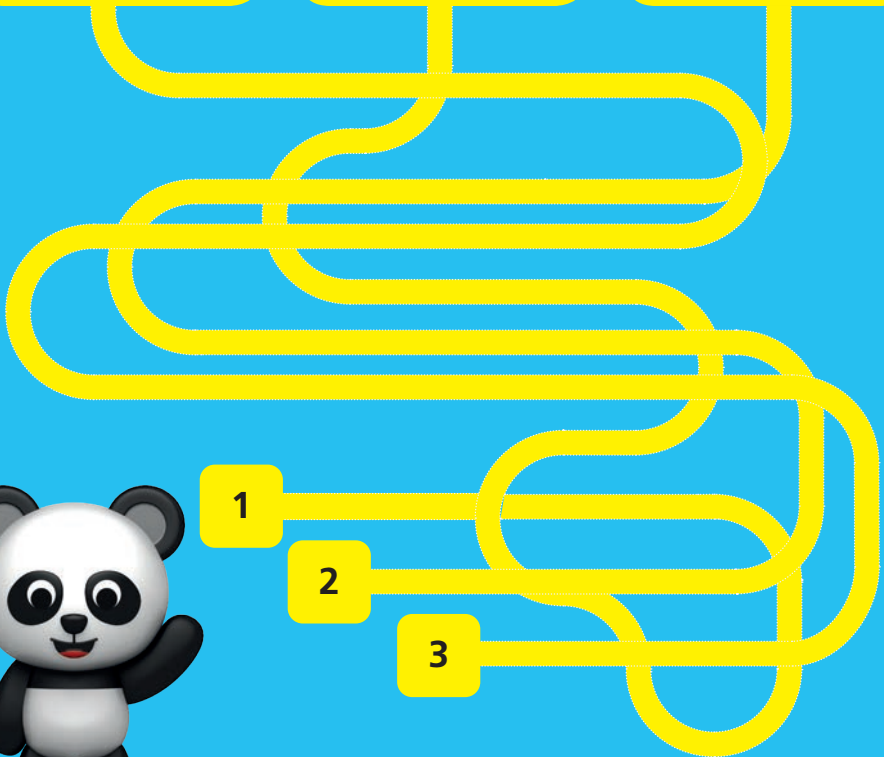
Play room



Bamboo



Linac



Scrambled words!

Can you unscramble the words below?



Clue: A piece of equipment

I L A C N
□ □ □ □ □

Clue: A cuddly black and white animal

A P N A D
□ □ □ □ □

Clue: A place to play and have some fun!

O M R L Y P A O
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

The proton beam therapy centre at The Christie
Ground floor reception: 0161 918 7577
Day unit: 0161 918 7289

Royal Manchester Children's Hospital (RMCH)
RMCH Hotline: 0161 701 7489

The Christie NHS Foundation Trust
www.christie.nhs.uk

The Christie Patient Information Service
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