Radiotherapy
A guide for patients and their carers
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Introduction

This booklet is to tell you about radiotherapy. The Christie is a specialised centre for radiotherapy, and patients come for treatments that are not available at general hospitals.

This is a general introduction to radiotherapy. If you would like more detailed information about your own treatment, please ask the staff.

You may have heard about radiotherapy from people you know or from patients. Their information may not apply to you.

Some other Christie information booklets are listed at the back of this booklet.

Radiotherapy – department 39
Tel: 0161 446 3485

Please note:
Mobile phones can interfere with the treatment equipment. Please look out for signs letting you know if it is safe to use your mobile phone. If you do have one with you, you may need to turn it off.
What is radiotherapy?

Radiotherapy uses exact, carefully measured doses of radiation to treat diseases. It is often given in small doses over a specified period of days or weeks, but may be given in a single treatment.

Most patients having radiotherapy are treated using a high energy beam of x-rays delivered to the precise area, by a machine called a linear accelerator. The rays are used only to treat the tumour and a small surrounding area.

While not all machines look alike, they all work in a similar way. In fact, these machines are just more powerful versions of the x-ray machines that are used to take pictures of the chest, broken bones and so on.

The radiographers treating you are highly trained professional men and women. They will be able to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Radiotherapy should not be confused with chemotherapy, which uses drugs to treat cancer. In some situations, your doctor will recommend both radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

How does radiotherapy work?

Our bodies are made up of cells and all cells are able to divide. If radiation hits a cell that is dividing, the cell will be damaged. Cancer cells are much less able than normal cells to repair the damage, so more of the cancer cells will be destroyed.
When will radiotherapy begin?

The specialist doctor who is in charge of your treatment is a clinical oncologist. A team of doctors, radiographers and nurses will care for you and a named consultant will be responsible for your treatment.

In choosing your treatment, your clinical oncologist at The Christie has carefully considered the nature of your illness and your particular needs with regard to your treatment plan.

When you attend for your initial radiotherapy planning appointment the radiographers will be able to tell you exactly when you will start your treatment. As everybody’s treatment varies the amount of time needed to plan the treatment varies. You may have between 1 and 37 treatments.

Agreeing to treatment

Consent to treatment

The doctors, clinic nurses and specialist radiographers will give you some written information to support what they have said about your treatment. At the time your treatment is being planned, you will have the opportunity to discuss anything that you do not understand, or any anxieties you may have.

We will ask you to sign a consent form agreeing to accept the treatment that you are being offered. The basis of the agreement is that you have had The Christie’s written description of the proposed treatment and that you have been given an opportunity to discuss any concerns. You are entitled to request a second opinion from another doctor who specialises in treating this cancer. You can ask your own consultant or your GP to refer you. Your consent may be withdrawn at any time before or during this treatment. Should you decide to withdraw your consent then a
member of your treating team will discuss the possible consequences with you.

Radiation can be harmful to the unborn child. It is important to let the radiographers know if you have missed a period, or suspect that you might be pregnant before you are exposed to any radiation.

What are the benefits of this treatment?
Radiotherapy works by damaging cancer cells while causing as little damage as possible to normal cells. The benefits of treatment vary from one person to another depending on the sort of illness. The aims of treatment may include an attempt to:

- cure the cancer
- or reduce the chances of the cancer coming back, such as after surgery
- or shrink the tumour so that surgery is easier to perform
- or shrink the tumour which may slow down its progress and give relief from troublesome symptoms

Are there any alternatives to this treatment?
There may be other treatment options available but the doctor at your local hospital will have advised you about the possible options for you before referring you to The Christie. Your Christie consultant will be happy to discuss any questions or concerns you may still have.

What will happen if I do not have this treatment?
There is a risk that your cancer may continue to grow and your symptoms may get worse. You can discuss what to do next with your doctor.
Treatment preparation

To help with the planning of your treatment, you will have a CT scan. The scans which are undertaken to plan your radiotherapy are solely aimed to give enough information to plan the radiotherapy accurately.

These scans are not diagnostic and therefore do not give sufficient information to assess the status of your cancer or any other abnormalities. The planning is very important and as a result can take up to a few weeks to complete. During this planning session the radiographers will draw some marks on the area being treated with a skin pen. These marks do wash off and so some permanent marks, like tiny black freckles, will need to be made. These will help the radiographers set you up in the correct position for treatment every day.

Mould preparation

For some patients it is necessary to make a plastic mould to fit the treated area such as the head, neck or limb. The mould helps us to ensure that the treatment is delivered accurately each day. Treatment marks are put on the mould, so it is not normally necessary to put marks on your skin.

As part of the preparation for the mould, you may need to attend The Christie several times before your treatment can start. The number of visits depends on the type of mould you are having. Different types of mould are used for various treatments. The mould room staff will explain the procedure when you come for your first visit.
What happens during treatment?

On the day of your first treatment, you will come to the radiotherapy department. If you are an inpatient, a male or female radiotherapy care assistant may collect you from your ward and escort you to the department. On the treatment unit you will meet a radiotherapy support worker. They help patients plan their appointments for the treatment.

The radiographers will have the details of your treatment which the doctor has carefully planned. They will explain to you exactly what will happen. The Christie is a training hospital, so you may meet male and female students in the radiotherapy department who may be involved in the delivery of your treatment. If you have any objections let the radiographers know.

The radiographers will have a brief chat with you and discuss the treatment and how to minimise side effects. They will also check whether you are still happy to go ahead with your treatment. This is the ideal opportunity to ask any questions you may still have.

The radiographers will take you into the treatment room and ask you to remove or loosen any clothing that covers the area being treated. There are cubicles for changing and also loose gowns to wear, if necessary. They will assist you on to the treatment bed. The radiographers will then adjust both the bed and your position so that you are in the correct position for the treatment. They will try to make you as comfortable as possible as you will be asked to keep still for the duration of the treatment.

The radiotherapy machines are quite large and you may find them a little frightening to begin with, but there is no need to worry – the treatment is painless. Each session may take between 10 and 30 minutes, dependent on the area being treated.
treated, but the actual treatment only lasts a few minutes. The radiographers operate the machines from outside the room so when all the adjustments have been made and you are in exactly the right position, the radiographers will make sure you are alright and then leave the room and switch the machine on. There is nothing to feel and nothing to see. The machines make a buzzing noise when they are giving treatment.

During your treatment the radiographers will need to take images of the area you are having treated. This will be done at the same time as your treatment; you probably won’t even notice the images have been taken. **These images are purely to check that you are in the correct position and not to check how the tumour is responding to treatment.**

Please do not feel abandoned; cameras inside the room give the radiographers a clear view of you at the control desk. They will be watching you all the time. If you feel you need to cough or sneeze the radiographers will tell you beforehand how to let them know this. They will switch off the machine and come in immediately.

Once your treatment has finished they will help you off the bed and arrange your next visit. You are then able to return home or to your ward.

**It is very important that you do not miss treatment days as this may make your treatment less effective.** If you feel you are unable to attend for any reason
please telephone the staff on your treatment machine and discuss the problem with a radiographer. Call the radiotherapy department on 0161 446 3485.

Treatment is given Monday to Friday. There is usually no radiotherapy given on Saturdays and Sundays and this is taken into account when your treatment is planned. Sometimes treatment is given on bank holidays. Please check with the radiographers treating you if there is a bank holiday during the course of your treatment.

You will usually be treated on the same machine throughout the course of your treatment. However the machines have to be serviced frequently and as a result you may be treated on a different machine. Do not worry: you will not miss any treatments as a result of this, and the treatment is exactly the same.

If you feel particularly anxious or you are having difficulties with having radiotherapy, please speak to the radiographers. There may be things that they can suggest that might help such as referring you for support to the CALMS team who provide complementary therapies.

Some questions about treatments

*Will it hurt?*
No. You will feel no pain at all while you are actually having your treatment.

*Will I lose my hair?*
Not unless your head is being treated. Wigs are available through The Christie, if needed. You may lose body hair in the area being treated and this hair loss can sometimes begin during and after treatment. But it usually starts to grow back some time after treatment is finished.
Is it safe?
Radiation used in medical treatment is given in controlled, carefully measured doses. The aim is to include all tissues that could possibly contain cancer cells whilst minimising the dose to the normal tissue.

Will I be radioactive?
No. Patients treated by x-rays do not become radioactive. The radiation does not stay in your body after treatment, so you cannot do anyone else any harm. It is safe for you to mix with other people including children and pregnant women and to have visitors if you are on the ward.

I already have problems with my health. Will radiotherapy make them worse?
Not usually. The treatment may make you feel more tired than normal. Please tell your treatment team about any existing medical conditions and continue with any medication that you may be taking unless your doctor or nurse tell you otherwise. Ask your Christie doctor if you are worried about any other health problems.

Can I come for treatment at any time of the day?
If you are having treatment as an outpatient, the radiographers will give you an appointment time for the first treatment when you attend for your planning session. After that you can arrange a time that suits both you and the machine with your treating team. Please try and be as flexible as possible and give priority to your treatment sessions over general appointments. The time you prefer may not be available at the start of your treatment because of the large patient numbers on the treatment unit.

If you need a specific time with valid reasons, please give the treating team at least 48 hours notice. The time we give you may vary half an hour either way each day due to
emergencies and so on. Please check your appointment time for the following day before you leave, in case of any changes.

Appointments will be made for you to meet your consultant or one of the review team to check that you are coping with the side effects of treatment. A radiographer will take you to the clinic before or after your radiotherapy. We will give you a morning or afternoon appointment to fit in with your consultant’s clinic.

If you are coming by ambulance transport we will give you a morning or afternoon appointment to fit in with your consultant’s clinic.

If you are an inpatient, the treatment team will send a care assistant for you when they have a free slot. If you are going on weekend leave, please let the staff know and they will do their best to treat you before lunch.

*Will I be treated as an outpatient or an inpatient?*

You will usually have your treatment as an outpatient. Some people continue to work during part of their treatment. However, after daily travel and treatment, you may feel tired and need to rest.

Your doctor will have discussed with you about travelling daily for your treatment as an outpatient. However, if you do become unwell during your treatment you may need to be admitted as an inpatient to support you through your radiotherapy. You will not have to stay in bed, so bring suitable day wear such as tops and skirts or trousers. Treatment usually takes up only a small part of the day and, if you are well enough, you may be able to go out – check with the ward staff first.
What happens if I need ambulance transport to and from the hospital?

Many patients are able to bring themselves or can ask a friend or relative to help them out. If you think you may need ambulance transport, please discuss this with a radiotherapy support worker or radiographer on your first visit to the radiotherapy department. Ambulance transport can be arranged subject to eligibility criteria based on medical need. There also needs to be a medical need for you to bring an escort on hospital transport.

There can be delays for some time either side of your appointment because of the high demand for transport. Please take this into account when you are deciding whether to use ambulance transport or not.

Hospital transport is provided by North West Ambulance Service and West Midlands Ambulance Service. Contact the transport liaison office at The Christie directly on 0161 446 8114 or 8143 for advice and bookings (Monday – Friday, 8.00am – 6.00pm). Patients attending The Christie at Salford can contact 0161 918 7800 and patients attending The Christie at Oldham can contact 0161 918 7700 for advice about transport.

Ambulance transport can be arranged subject to eligibility criteria based on medical need. There also needs to be a medical need for you to bring an escort on hospital transport.

Prescriptions

Prescriptions from The Christie pharmacy are free for NHS patients. You will need an exemption certificate to get free prescriptions from a community pharmacy. Exemption certificates are available from the pharmacy at The Christie and from your GP.
Side effects from treatment

Side effects from radiotherapy vary. Any side effects you get will depend on which part of your body is treated, and on the number of treatments you have. Even people who have had very similar treatments can have different side effects.

Most people notice the side effects during the second half of their course of treatment. These may well continue after you have finished your treatment, but they should gradually fade by 4 to 6 weeks after treatment.

During your course of radiotherapy, one of the doctors or radiographers on the team looking after you will see you regularly.

Skin reaction

The extent of a skin reaction in the treatment area will vary for each person depending on the area being treated and the type of treatment you have. You may notice that your skin in the area being treated becomes more sensitive and can become slightly pink, feel tighter than usual and warm to the touch. Ask the radiographers for advice regarding skin care during your treatment. There is a Christie leaflet which you may find helpful ‘Skin care during and after your radiotherapy treatment’.

Nausea

This also depends on which part of the body has been treated. If you do experience sickness please tell the radiographers – you may be prescribed medication.

Tiredness

Tiredness is one of the most common side effects of radiotherapy treatment. Some people describe feelings of
extreme fatigue, although some continue to work and carry out busy lives as normal. You can help yourself by taking time to rest and relax. Do not be afraid of asking family and friends for help. Some patients find that it helps to have a short rest each day after having their treatment. However, it is beneficial to take gentle exercise as well as taking rest. There is a Christie booklet and DVD demonstrating a simple exercise programme. Please ask staff for a copy.

**Late or permanent reactions**

It is possible for some types of reaction to occur months or years after the treatment has finished, although this is less common these days because of recent improvements in treatment. Your doctor at The Christie will discuss any possible late effects with you, and give you further written information about them if they are at all likely to occur.

Other side effects may appear, depending on the part of the body that has been treated. The radiographers will tell you what to expect. If you have any queries after your treatment, before your follow-up appointment you can ring the radiotherapy department on 0161 446 3485 and ask to speak to a radiographer or nurse.

**What can the staff do to help?**

It is part of the staff’s job to help you through any side effects you may have. If you feel uncomfortable in any way, do mention it to the doctor, the nurses or the radiographers. They all want you to be as comfortable as possible.

The side effects, including pain, can worsen as treatment progresses. It is important to tell staff who will be able to prescribe pain relief which should ease your discomfort.

Speak to the staff if you have any problems or concerns – however trivial these may seem.
What can you do to help?

Skin care

- Wash skin gently with warm water using your normal shower or bath products. If preferred, you can wash with an aqueous cream but this has not been shown to reduce the chance of skin reactions occurring. If your skin becomes irritated after using a product, it is advisable to stop using that product for the time being. Pat the skin dry with a soft towel.

- You can continue to moisturise your skin while you are having radiotherapy treatment applying the moisturiser that you normally use. You do not need to change from this unless you find that your normal moisturiser starts to irritate your skin. Your treatment team may advise you to start moisturising the skin that is included within the treatment area. If they do, we recommend that you avoid products containing ‘sodium lauryl sulfate‘ as this can irritate the skin. Your team can let you know about products that do not have this ingredient. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask a member of your radiographer team for further advice.

- If your skin becomes blistered or broken during treatment, please stop using moisturising cream or lotion in that area.

- If your skin blisters or becomes broken during or in the days after completing radiotherapy treatment, you may need to have a dressing placed over this area to help with the healing process.

- Wear something loose and comfortable. Cotton is best next to the treated skin – better than man-made material.

- Men who are having part of their head, face or neck treated should use an electric shaver. Please remember to bring one with you if you are an inpatient.
Keep the area of skin that has been treated away from direct heat, such as sunlamps, hair-dryers and direct sunlight. You should take extra care of your skin during treatment and as long as the reaction lasts. The skin in the treated area may always be more sensitive, so you will need to take care in the sun, even after your treatment has finished. You can use high protection sun cream on the treated area when the side effects have settled.

There is more skin care advice in the leaflet ‘Skin care during and after your radiotherapy’. Please ask the radiographers for a copy.

**Nutritional advice**

- It is very important to keep your weight stable before and during the treatment. Try to eat small frequent meals or snacks throughout the day. Ask the radiotherapy or nursing staff for a copy of ‘Eating: Help yourself’ which has detailed information about coping with problems such as difficulty in swallowing, nausea and lack of appetite. Make sure you drink plenty of fluids.

- Try to avoid very hot food and drinks – let hot drinks cool slightly before drinking and avoid spicy foods. Cool drinks and ice-cream can be soothing.

- You may need nutritional supplement drinks if you are losing weight or you are not eating very well. Please speak to the radiographer, nurses or Christie doctor if you feel you are losing weight. Ask for a copy of the ‘Nutritional Drinks’ booklet for ideas. Nutritional supplement drinks are available on prescription from your doctor.

- Some people may need to change to a softer diet for a time.
For more information
You may have particular queries that are not answered here. Please do not hesitate to ask the staff.

Relatives and carers
Please share this booklet with your family and friends. It is important that they feel well-informed and understand what is happening. Families and carers can have a role in helping you. There are also DVDs on radiotherapy which you can take home to watch. Please ask your doctor, a radiographer or the ward staff.

Inpatients should be able to go home as soon as their course of treatment is finished, or very shortly afterwards.

Aftercare
After you have finished your treatment, we will tell you about the arrangements for your first follow-up visit to an outpatient clinic. This visit is for the clinical oncologist to see how the treatment is working and how any side effects are settling down. Most patients continue to be followed up at an outpatient clinic for several years.

Some people return to The Christie for their follow-up visits. Other people return to a hospital near their home, where they will usually see a visiting Christie doctor. It may be possible to choose the arrangement that suits you and your family.

If you have any problems before you are due for your first visit back to the hospital, ask your clinical nurse specialist or GP for advice. If you were an inpatient you could also ring up your ward at The Christie and speak to a senior nurse. If you have any problems after your first outpatient visit, contact your GP straight away rather than wait for your next appointment. Your doctor may want to arrange an earlier one.
Appointments

Once you are having treatment, if you have any problems with your appointment time, please contact the Radiotherapy department where you are having treatment: The Christie at Withington on 0161 446 3485, The Christie at Salford on 0161 918 7800 or The Christie at Oldham on 0161 918 7700 as soon as possible. It is helpful if you can quote your hospital number – it will be on your appointment card or letter.

If you change your address, please let the health records department staff know your new address – and the address of your new GP.

Car parking

The Christie at Oldham and Salford have designated areas for free parking for radiotherapy patients whilst on treatment. It is accessible by code entry that is provided at your first appointment within the unit.

For parking at the main Withington site, please check the website (www.christie.nhs.uk) for the latest details, or ask at the information centre for a copy of the leaflet ‘Travelling and car parking for patients and patient’s visitors to The Christie’.

The Christie at Oldham and Salford

The Christie gives radiotherapy treatment at our main Withington site and at radiotherapy centres at Oldham and Salford.

If the type of treatment recommended for you is available at Oldham or Salford, your Christie doctor may offer you the treatment there.
The Christie at Oldham

The Christie at Oldham is based at the Royal Oldham Hospital to give patients who come from Oldham, Bury, Middleton, North Manchester, Rochdale and parts of Tameside easier access to radiotherapy treatment.

Patients can receive CT planning scans and treatments for the most common cancers including breast, prostate and lung at The Christie at Oldham. All treatments given are identical to those used at the main Withington site. Patients receiving chemotherapy and radiotherapy together will still need to have treatment at the main Christie Withington site.

The Christie at Salford Royal

The Christie radiotherapy centre based at Salford Royal Foundation Trust gives patients who live in Salford, Wigan and Bolton, easier access to Christie treatment.

As at the Oldham centre, patients can receive treatment for the most common cancers including breast, prostate and lung. CT planning scans are also available. However, patients who need radiotherapy and chemotherapy together will still need to visit the main Withington site.

The Christie also works with neurosurgeons from Salford Royal to provide specialist treatment for patients with both benign and malignant brain tumours.

Further information

Macmillan Cancer Support

This is a national charity which runs a cancer information service. The cancer support service freephone number is 0808 808 00 00. (Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm). If you are hard of hearing, use the textphone 0808 808 0121.
If you are a non-English speaker, interpreters are available. Specially trained cancer nurses can give you information on all aspects of cancer and its treatment. Information and advice about finance and benefits are also available.

Macmillan Cancer Support publish booklets which are free to patients, their families and carers. You can get a copy by ringing the freephone number. The information is on their website: www.macmillan.org.uk

Information is available on cancer treatments – such as Understanding radiotherapy and Understanding chemotherapy. There are also booklets on living with cancer – some of these are listed below:

- Talking about your cancer
- Talking to children and teenagers when an adult has cancer
- Cancer and complementary therapies
- Travel and cancer

The cancer information centres have the full range of booklets free to patients and their relatives or carers. There are information centres at The Christie at Withington, Salford and Oldham.

**Cancer information in your language**

If English is not your first language, you can speak to a nurse at Cancer Research UK through a qualified interpreter. The service is free and over 170 languages are available on 0808 800 4040.

**Christie information**

The Christie produces a range of patient information booklets and DVDs. Some of these are listed below:
Booklets are free to patients coming to The Christie and are available from the cancer information centre. If you are an inpatient and would like a copy please ask the ward staff. If you are an outpatient please ask your nurse, doctor or radiographer.

- ‘Radiotherapy to the head and neck’ & ‘Radiotherapy: a guide’
  Short films can be viewed on The Christie website at www.christie.nhs.uk under ‘patient information’ or you can borrow it in DVD format to watch at home. Ask the staff on the ward, in outpatients or in radiotherapy for copies. Available in English, Urdu, Bengali, Polish and Punjabi.

- Where to get help: services for people with cancer
  This provides sources of help when you have cancer, where to go for financial help, palliative care and cancer support groups.

- Eating: Help Yourself
  This gives advice on eating problems when you don’t feel well and you are having treatment. Other booklets give helpful advice on diet: Advice about soft and liquidised foods and Nutritional Drinks. Please ask staff for a copy.

- More detailed information on treatment and side effects is available for radiotherapy for:
  anal and rectal tumours; prostate; bladder; oesophagus; head and neck; lung; brain; gynaecological cancers; vulval cancer; vaginal brachytherapy; radiotherapy after breast surgery; prostate brachytherapy; superficial radiotherapy to the skin and total skin electron beam therapy.
Be Active, Stay Active: a guide for exercising during and after treatment for cancer

A booklet and DVD with a simple exercise programme you can follow. There is also more information about coping with fatigue and the benefits of exercise. Available with sub-titles, and in Urdu and Chinese. This is also available to watch on The Christie website: www.christie.nhs.uk under ‘patient information’.

If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

Benefits and finance

You may have had to stop work and had a reduction in your income. You may be able to get benefits or other financial help.

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a social security benefit and has replaced Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for new claimants. It’s for people who need help either because of their disability or their illness. You can apply if you are aged 16 – 64.

People aged 65 or over who need help with personal care or supervision could be entitled to Attendance Allowance.

Your carer could get Carer’s Allowance if you have substantial caring needs.

Find out more today:

To get a claim pack for Attendance Allowance, call 0345 605 6055 and for PIP call 0800 917 2222.

For DLA: If you were born on or before 8 April 1948 call 0345 605 6055, if you were born after 8 April 1948 call 0345 712 3456.
Carer’s Allowance: call 0345 608 4321.

For benefits advice, contact Maggie’s centre on 0161 641 4848 or email manchester@maggiescentres.org
The Christie at Oldham has a benefits advice session on Thursday afternoons, call 0161 918 7745.

Contact your local social services department for help with equipment and adaptations, or for an assessment of care needs. Visit www.gov.uk for further information.

Macmillan Cancer Support can give advice on helping with the cost of cancer on 0808 808 00 00 or www.macmillan.org.uk

Student training

The Christie is a training hospital for postgraduate and undergraduate trainees so you may meet male and female students in all areas of the hospital. We train doctors, nurses, radiographers and other therapists in the treatment and care of cancer patients.

Placements at The Christie are an important part of student training, so by allowing them to assist in your care, you will be making a valuable contribution to student education.

Students are always supervised by fully qualified staff. However, you have the right to decide if students can take part in your care. If you prefer them not to, please tell the doctor, nurse, radiographer or other therapist in charge as soon as possible. You have a right to do this and your treatment will not be affected in any way.

We also try to respect the concerns of patients in relation to the gender of their doctor and other health professionals.
Do you have private medical insurance or are you considering funding treatment yourself?

Patients with private medical insurance or those who choose to self-pay for their care can access a full range of treatment at The Christie Clinic. This includes initial consultation, diagnostics, surgical, chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatments in one place. The Christie Clinic is a joint partnership between The Christie NHS Foundation Trust and HCA Healthcare UK. The partnership means that a share of the profit from The Christie Clinic is invested back into the NHS for the development of care and future service enhancement, therefore benefiting all patients.

We value our patients as individuals so care is tailored to provide the best possible clinical outcomes. We work with a number of expert consultants who lead this tailored care plan. We operate a consultant lead service and so your named consultant will be in charge of your care for the duration of your treatment.

If you wish to use your private medical insurance or pay for your treatment yourself there are three simple steps:

1. **Check your insurance cover.** In some instances your insurance company may suggest that you have your care and/or some aspects of your treatment on the NHS, but it is your choice to use your private medical insurance if you wish to do so. If you are being treated in the NHS and you choose to exercise your private medical insurance or wish to pay privately, you may of course do this, but your consultant would guide you as to the best clinical option.
2. Make an appointment. There are no waiting lists at The Christie Clinic and appointments can be easily scheduled to suit you.

3. For more information or advice:
- Speak to your consultant about continuing your treatment as a private patient.
- Call us on 0161 918 7296 if you have any queries about accessing our services. You can also use this number for a quotation if you are paying for treatment, as we offer fixed prices for some treatments and if you have private medical insurance and wish to clarify any points.
- Email us: info.christieclinic@hcahealthcare.co.uk
- Visit our website: www.thechristieclinic.co.uk

We care for patients at all stages of illness and treatment if you wish to consider private treatment.

Christie website

For more information about The Christie and our services, please visit www.christie.nhs.uk or visit the cancer information centre at Withington, Oldham or Salford.

We try to ensure that all our information given to patients is accurate, balanced and based on the most up-to-date scientific evidence.
If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact patient.information@christie.nhs.uk
Contact The Christie Hotline for urgent support and specialist advice

The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Visit the Cancer Information Centre:
The Christie at Withington Tel: 0161 446 8100
The Christie at Oldham Tel: 0161 918 7745
The Christie at Salford Tel: 0161 918 7804
Open Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm.
Opening times can vary, please ring to check before making a special journey.

The Christie NHS Foundation Trust
Wilmslow Road
Manchester M20 4BX

T. 0161 446 3000
www.christie.nhs.uk

The Christie Patient Information Service
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