



## Radiotherapy department scanner The Christie at Salford Royal

### Information about your radiotherapy planning CT scan

#### The Christie at Salford Royal & car parks

## What is a planning scan?

This leaflet explains what happens when you come for a radiotherapy planning (RTP) scan. This is different from a diagnostic CT scan. An RTP scan uses a CT scanner to produce cross-sectional images or 'slices' through the body using x-rays linked to a computer. These images are used to plan your radiotherapy treatment.

## Before your scan

- Just eat and drink normally. If you do have to starve, we will tell you beforehand.
- When you arrive, we **may** give you a special drink called Gastrografin which outlines your stomach and bowel on the scan. If you need this, we will ask you to take the drink over a period of **ONE HOUR** before the scan.
- If you have a **colostomy** please let us know when you arrive.
- It *may* be necessary to see your organs and vessels more clearly. To do this, we *may* have to give you an injection of a **contrast agent** (a colourless liquid). The radiographer will do this via a cannula in the back of the hand or the arm.
- If you take a medication called **metformin** please call the department as soon as possible before your scan and tell the radiographers.
- A radiographer will take you into the scan room and explain all about the procedure.
- Unlike diagnostic scans you do not need to undress completely for the procedure. We will simply separate your clothes over the area we are scanning.
- You can normally go to the toilet as normal. On some occasions we may ask you not to empty your bladder whilst in the department. If this is the case, we will tell you when you arrive.

## During your scan

- The scanner is like a large ring with a large hole. The table moves through this hole. **The scanner is not a tunnel.**
- We will usually position you head first on the scanner table.
- The radiographers will guide you into the treatment position and draw some marks on your skin using a marker pen. These are the marks which will be used to set you up for your treatment.
- The table is motorised and it moves slowly through the scanner. The machine makes a noise similar to a washing machine. We can then take images or pictures at different levels throughout the body.
- When we are taking an image, we will ask you to lie still and breathe normally.
- Your scan should take about 10 to 15 minutes.

## After your scan

- With your permission, the pen marks will be replaced with small permanent tattoos which will allow you to bathe and shower as normal.
- We will then give you your next appointment. It is **important** that you tell staff if you are going to need hospital transport to get to your future appointments.
- It may be necessary for some patients to see the doctor for consent purposes. We will tell you if this is necessary.
- If you have been given a contrast injection we will ask you to remain in the department for 15 to 30 minutes following the scan.
- The whole procedure can take up to 2 hours. You will be able to drive yourself home.

**If you have any questions please contact us on  
0161 918 7800 or 0161 918 7787**

The map overleaf shows you where to find The Christie at Salford Royal. You may wish to refer to The Christie at Salford Royal leaflet for more information.

**The Christie at Salford Royal is a smoke free site.**