

Radiation Therapist Job Description

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Use radiotherapy equipment such as linear accelerators and cobalt-60 units to administer prescribed radiation dose
- Position patients properly during examination or radiation therapy
- Comply with safety guidelines, procedures and standards to prevent undue exposure to radiation
- Explain to patients and their families the details of treatment, possible treatment effects and ways to adjust accordingly
- Inspect radiation equipment to ensure they are operational and function efficiently
- Adjust equipment position and input accurate dosage information into computerized machine prior to use
- Keep record of treatment information such as radiation dosage, equipment settings, and patients' response to medication
- Assist physicians and oncologists to develop treatment plans for cancer patients
- Use diagnostic imaging equipment such as x-ray to obtain images of treated area
- Direct and supervise the activities of radiotherapy assistants and technologists to ensure their work is up to acceptable standards
- Monitor patients to check for side effects such as nausea or hair loss to make appropriate recommendations or changes where necessary
- Develop treatment plans to address the health condition of individual patients
- Collaborate with oncologists and other healthcare practitioners to locate tumors and prepare radiation doses
- Sterilize medical equipment such as applicators to ensure they are free of microbes
- Make calculations to determine actual radiation dose administered.

Radiation Therapist Requirements – Skills, Knowledge, and Abilities

- Education and Training: To become a radiation therapist, you require an Associate's or Bachelor's degree in radiation therapy although you could opt for a 12-month certification from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). You are also required to pass the ARRT certification exam in order to obtain state licensure for practice
- Attention to Details: Radiation therapists follow set instructions and prescribed radiation dose when administering medications to patients
- Physical Stamina: They assist in lifting patients and can stand for extended periods
- Technical Skill: They are able to operate and inspect various diagnostic equipment.