

## WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD I ASK MY DOCTOR?

Coping with a diagnosis of cancer and researching the various treatment options can be a stressful experience. The following are some suggested questions to ask during your treatment stages.

### Questions to Ask Before Treatment

- What type and stage of cancer do I have?
- What is the purpose of radiation treatment for my type of cancer?
- How will the radiation therapy be given? Will it be external beam or brachytherapy? What do the treatments feel like?
- How long will I receive radiation? How many treatments will I receive per week?
- What are the chances that radiation therapy will work? Are there any other effective treatments?
- What is the chance that the cancer will spread or come back if I do not have radiation therapy?
- Will I need chemotherapy, surgery or other treatments? If so, in what order will I receive these treatments? How soon after radiation therapy can I start them? How will the treatments be coordinated?
- Is there a clinical trial for which I might be eligible? Should I participate in a clinical trial?
- What are the benefits and risks of treatment including short-term and long-term side effects?
- What are some of the support groups I can turn to during treatment?
- Will radiation therapy affect my ability to have children?
- If I have questions after I leave here, who can I call or email?
- How should I prepare for this financially?
- Do you take my insurance? Is there a co-pay?
- Is this the most convenient location for treatment (close to home or work?)