

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
JOAN KNECHEL CANCER CENTER
PATIENT TATTOOS IN PREPARATION FOR TREATMENT**

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SCOPE

All patients receiving more than a single radiation treatment.

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for Radiation Therapy staff to use proper technique when administering tattoos.

POLICY

All patients receiving more than a single treatment will be tattooed in accordance with the policy below. .

PROCEDURE

1. The patient will be tattooed by the Radiation Therapist at the end of the CT simulation.
2. The tattoo must be explained to the patient and the patient must give consent before the tattoos can be given. Every attempt must be made to tattoo all patients. If a patient refuses, the importance of the tattoos should be stressed in attempt to alleviate concerns. If a patient adamantly refuses, the physician must be consulted to speak with the patient and to make a decision on whether or not absence of a tattoo is acceptable. This should then be documented.
3. If the patient refuses Tattoos, the patient must be marked with a sharpie marker and/or a paint marker, and agree to maintain the marks for the entire course of treatment. The treating Therapist will remark the patient when such marks begin to fade. If the marks are totally faded, port film verification must be taken before delivering treatment. Tegaderm may be placed to help preserve the marks.
4. Black Indian ink and an appropriate gauge needle will be used for the procedure. The therapist who performs the procedure must wear gloves and any therapist who may assist and therefore risk coming in contact with blood or body fluid, must wear gloves also.
5. Tattoos must be accurate.
6. The skin in the area of the tattoo must be wiped with an alcohol swab before the needle is placed under the skin. When the tattoo has been done, wipe off excess ink and once more go over the skin with an alcohol swab. The needle must be disposed of in the sharp box, the cover in the garbage. **DO NOT RECAP NEEDLES AFTER USE.**
7. Digital camera images must be taken of the tattoos and transferred into the electronic medical record (Aria) to provide documentation. The appropriate symbols are displayed on the electronic simulator worksheet.