

Patient Information

## Oncology

# Mould room

### Introduction

Radiotherapy requires you to remain very still during your treatment. This is especially important when treating areas such as your head and neck. To help keep your head still, we use an immobilisation mask called a beam directional shell (BDS) with adequate holes to allow you to breathe normally.

### Type of mask or shell

There are 3 types of masks made by the mould room:

- **Thermoplastic-shell:** used for head and neck treatments
- **Plastic Shell:** used for electron treatments
- **Lead Mask:** used for superficial skin treatments on the face, designed to shield areas that are not for treatment.

### What should you do before the mould room appointment?

If you have a beard or moustache, you need to shave it off before you attend your appointment. If you need a haircut, please either have it cut before your first appointment or wait until your treatment is finished.

### How are they made?

#### Thermoplastic-shell

You will be asked to lie down and positioned on a headboard. The staff will position you in the optimal position for your treatment. You will need to



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close your eyes as the warm sheet is placed over your face, neck and sometimes your shoulders. A staff member will be with you throughout the entire process.

The thermoplastic-sheet is then connected to the headboard and the staff will hold it to your skin to make sure it creates a good impression of your shape. Once the shell has cooled down and become rigid, it is removed.

This entire process usually takes about 30 minutes, with the impression stage lasting 15 minutes.

Afterward, you will be taken to the CT scanner for a CT scan while wearing the shell in order to prepare for your treatment.

## Plastic Shell and Lead Mask

To create these masks, we need to take an impression of the treatment area. This is done with using a dental impression compound called alginate and Plaster of Paris bandage. The alginate is poured onto your skin and sets quickly.

Next, Plaster of Paris bandage is spread over the top of the alginate to make the impression rigid, allowing it to be removed without deformation. This process usually takes about 20 minutes, but it may take longer for more complex shells.

Your treatment mask will be made from this impression and will typically be ready within 1-2 weeks, depending on your particular treatment, as some shells are more complex than others. A member of the radiotherapy team will contact you to confirm your radiotherapy appointment once your mask is ready.

## Does it hurt?

No.

- The thermoplastic sheet is warm when it is applied, but it cools down quickly.
- The dental impression alginate is cold when it first contacts the skin but it soon reaches body temperature.

## Further Information

If you need any further information or advice please telephone **024 7696 7260** or **024 7696 7255**.

## Patient Satisfaction

We hope that you have found this leaflet helpful. We welcome your comments on the care that you experience and the service that we offer within the Arden Cancer Centre.

We ask that specific complaints be addressed to a member of staff so that, in line with University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust's complaints policy, they can be dealt with quickly and efficiently.

Written by Phil Sharpe, reviewed by Michael Brown (Dosimetrist). With help and advice from the Medical Staff of the Arden Cancer Centre, University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust, Coventry CV2 2DX

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 7290 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

### Did we get it right?

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[www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback](http://www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback)



#### Document History

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