

## **Radiation Therapist**

Radiation Therapists treat cancer and other diseases in patients by administering radiation treatments.

*Radiation Therapists typically do the following:*

- Explain treatment plans to the patient and answer questions about treatment
- Protect the patients and themselves from improper exposure to radiation
- Determine the exact location of the area requiring treatment
- Calibrate and operate the machine to treat the patient with radiation
- Monitor the patient to check for unusual reactions to the treatment
- Keep detailed records of treatment

Radiation Therapists operate machines, such as linear accelerators, to deliver concentrated radiation therapy to the region of a patient's tumor. Radiation treatment can shrink or remove cancers and tumors.

Radiation Therapists are part of the oncology teams that treat patients with cancer. They often work with the following specialists:

Radiation Oncologists are Physicians who specialize in radiation therapy

Oncology Nurses specialize in caring for patients with cancer

Medical Physicists help in planning of radiation treatments, develop better and safer radiation therapies, and check that radiation output is accurate

### **Work Environment**

Radiation Therapists work in hospitals, offices of Physicians, and outpatient centers. Most Radiation Therapists work full time.

*Watch a video about being a Radiation Therapist*

**Top Local Employers:** Stanford Health Care, Kaiser Permanente, Clinical Management Consultants, Soliant Health, Sutter Health

### **Median Pay**

\$123,493

### **Job Growth (2020-2025)**

13%



**Education and Training**

Most Radiation Therapists complete programs that lead to an associate degree or a bachelor's degree in radiation therapy. Radiation Therapists must be licensed or certified in most states. Requirements vary by state, but often include passing a national certification exam.

**Local Education:**

Canada College

Foothill College

**For More Information:**

Bureau of Labor Statistics

American Society of Radiologic Technologists

