

The Isle of Wight Prostate Cancer Support Group

Queen Alexandra Travel Guide

This guide is intended to assist new patients travelling to the QA for Radio Therapy.

Please note that the information is based on patients feed back around the above date so please advise us at the next Support Group meeting of any changes. The guide is based on travel by say three up to ten patients therefore larger volumes may change the procedure.

1) THE HOVERCRAFT

Patients travel from Ryde by Hovercraft at 10.30 am, most patients buy tickets for several days at one time, you should ask for a **NHS ticket**. It is normal to book for 10.30 am outward and 1.30 pm return. If you arrive and book in at least five minutes prior to these times your seat is safe. Your ticket can still be used on a later craft if needs be.

2) THE TAXI

At South Sea a **taxi** will be waiting for you, with larger groups they will send a seven seater plus a smaller taxi for the remainder.

3) BOOKING IN AT QA

At the QA you go to level B in the lifts by the entrance, and then turn right to the Oncology reception. With groups it is easier if you prefer, to nominate one person to **book in** the group. "**The Group Leader**" should make a list of the groups First and Surnames preferably in alphabetical order of surnames. (the receptionist will love this)

4) ORDER OF TREATMENT

The staff at the QA are very kind and make every effort to treat the Isle of Wight patients as a group to allow the return taxi travel to be practical, **but you must appreciate that this is not always possible for various reasons.**

5) DRINKING

With most patient being treated for Prostate Cancer you will be advised to fill your bladder with approximately 500 ml of water 45 mins to 1 hour prior to your treatment. With this in mind some groups have found it helpful if the staff will agree to an order of treatment list, this will allow the first two patients to take their water on the hovercraft so the can treated immediately the group arrives. Some of the staff have been helpful by advising the remaining patient when to start drinking prior to their treatment. Please note that some patients may be called away for a review and this can change the order of play. Cathy Flook (Macmillan Radiographer) was very helpful whilst arranging these timings.

6) RECOVERY & RETURN TRIP

Most groups meet in the **Macmillan Suite opposite the reception** after their treatment where the kind staff normally give you tea and biscuits. When up to seven patients arrive elect one person to go to Oncology reception and order the taxi back to the hovercraft, please make it clear if any remaining patients will require a later taxi.