

# Radiation Oncology Consultation - Patient Medical History

A Radiation Oncology Registered Nurse will perform and document a full review of your medical history with you at the beginning of your consultation appointment before you see the Radiation Oncologist. To ensure your safety and the accuracy of your medical record, we perform a comprehensive review and will not simply copy medical information from records provided to us from other physicians. This review process can take upwards of 30 minutes.

To help make this review as efficient and effective as possible, a selection of some of the information that will be gathered from you during this review is included below for your preparation:

## General Questions:

Have you previously been diagnosed with cancer?

Are you currently enrolled in a clinical trial for cancer treatment?

Have you ever been treated with Radiation Therapy?

What hospital, clinic, and / or physician performed treatments?

What year did these treatments occur?

What part(s) of your body received treatment?

Are you currently receiving Chemotherapy?

Have you previously been treated with Chemotherapy?

Do you have a pacemaker?

**\*\*If yes, please bring your pacemaker identification / information card with you to your appointment.**

Have you ever smoked cigarettes or used tobacco?

What year did you start, what year did you quit, what was your average packs a day usage?

## Medical History:

Please provide a list of previous diagnoses, hospitalizations, and major medical events:

Diagnosis/Condition	Date or Age Occurred	Location	Physician Name

DR. RUSSEL PARDOE RADIATION ONCOLOGY CENTER

St. Joseph Hospital  
2700 Dolbeer Street, Eureka  
T: (707) 269-4229 F: (707) 269-3849



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## Surgical History:

Please provide a list of previous biopsies and surgical procedures:

Diagnosis/Condition	Date or Age Occurred	Location	Physician Name

## Medications:

If we were provided a medication list with your referral, it will be attached to this information packet. Please review this list and be prepared to let your nurse know if any medications have been added or removed from this list. If we do not have a current med list, or if the attached list is blank, please prepare a list of your current medications to bring to your consultation. The medication list should include:

- Name of the medication or supplement
- The dosage you are prescribed
- How frequently you take the medication

## Family Medical History:

What major medical issues or diagnoses of cancer exist in your family?

- Mother
- Father
- Siblings
- Children
- Maternal Grandfather & Grandmother
- Paternal Grandfather & Grandmother
- Other Cancer in Family

## Health Maintenance, Vaccines, and Medical Screenings:

Please be prepared to provide approximate dates for the questions below if applicable:

- When did you last receive your annual flu vaccination?
- When did you last have a pneumonia shot?
- When was your last colonoscopy?
- When was your last Pap smear?
- When was your last mammogram?

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## Michael Harmon, MD

Dr. Harmon specializes in Radiation Oncology and has been practicing in Humboldt County for over 25 years. He is the Radiation Oncology Medical Director and Radiation Oncologist representative for the St. Joseph Hospital Cancer Committee. Dr. Harmon treats each patient with compassion and respect and places a high priority on answering all of the patient and family members questions. Dr. Harmon is an avid kite-boarder and surfer and is involved in Athletes for Cancer, a charitable organization that raises money to send young adults with cancer to Maui for a therapeutic camp to help heal from the emotional trauma of cancer treatments while learning to surf.

### Medical School

Wayne State University School of Medicine

### Residency

University of Wisconsin at Madison –  
Radiation Oncology

### Internship

Oakwood Hospital - Dearborn MI

### Board Certification

American Board of Radiology – Radiation  
Oncology



## Join Luh, MD

Dr. Luh specializes in Radiation Oncology and is also board certified in Internal Medicine. He has practiced in Humboldt County since 2007 and holds positions in many local and national physician professional organizations including serving as physician co-lead for the Providence St Joseph Health System Radiation Oncology Focus Group and as the president-elect of the Humboldt Del Norte County Medical Society. Dr. Luh takes time to get to know his patients, their backgrounds, and their story prior to their diagnosis to help him recommend treatment best suited for their needs and priorities. In his spare time, Dr. Luh enjoys mountain biking, boogie boarding, and music.

### Medical School

University of Texas Health Science Center at  
San Antonio Medical School

### Residency

University of Texas Health Science Center at  
San Antonio – Radiation Oncology  
University of Texas Medical Branch,  
Galveston TX - Internal Medicine

### Board Certification

American Board of Radiology – Radiation  
Oncology  
American Board of Internal Medicine



## Dusten Macdonald, MD

Dr. Macdonald specializes in Radiation Oncology and moved to Humboldt County to join the department in 2016 after practicing Radiation Oncology in the Army for eight years. Dr. Macdonald was the Principal investigator for the “Targeted Radiation Therapy for Cancer Initiative,” a \$2.7M multi-institutional Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) grant which includes funding for prostate cancer, breast cancer, and palliative radiation therapy research. Dr. Macdonald aims to treat each patient as he would a family member or close friend – by guiding the diagnostic work-up, discussing options for treatment, and making recommendations based on national guidelines and an understanding of the medical literature. In his free time, Dr. Macdonald enjoys spending time with his family, including outdoor activities such as running, hiking, and soccer, and indoor activities such as reading, music, and volunteer work at church.

### Medical School

Medical College of Wisconsin - Milwaukee,  
WI

### Residency

Washington University in St. Louis -  
Radiation Oncology

### Internship

Walter Reed Army Medical Center

### Board Certification

American Board of Radiology - Radiation  
Oncology

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## An Overview of the Radiation Oncology Department

Dear Patient:

Welcome to the Radiation Oncology Department at St. Joseph Hospital. Asking questions is the best way for you to get accurate information and feel comfortable during what can sometimes feel like an overwhelming experience.

Your radiation oncology team includes the physicians specialized in radiation therapy, known as Radiation Oncologists; Radiation Therapists, technologists specialized in the delivery of your treatment; a Dosimetrist and a Medical Physicist who assists the Radiation Oncologist in planning your treatment, and Nurses specialized in cancer care. Our front office therapy assistants offer a great deal of assistance and support to both patients and staff. Other members may include the Social Worker, Dietician, a Home Health Nurse and Chaplains from Spiritual Health Services. We all work together to assist you and your family.

### **Consultation:**

Your first visit to the department is a consultation with the physician regarding your care. First, the nurse will meet with you to review your past medical history and your recent medical problems. The Radiation Oncologist will then meet with you and perform a physical examination. He will share with you and your family information about your treatment options and the use of radiation therapy as part of your overall treatment plan. If additional lab work or x-rays are needed, the nurse will schedule them and explain them to you. This appointment may last approximately 1-1/2 to 2 hours.

### **The Treatment Process:**

#### **Simulation:**

If you have decided that you want to start radiation therapy, you will be given an appointment for a simulation, which is the first step to help set up your plan of treatment. If you are currently taking pain medications, please take the medication prior to your simulation appointment and bring extra with you in case you need it. The simulation procedure itself is not painful, but staying in one position for an extended period can be uncomfortable for some patients. The simulation appointment generally lasts about an hour. During this time you will work with a radiation therapist, who will partner with you to position you in a position that is reproducible for daily treatments. Once the position has been established a series of scan will be performed using a CT scanner to create a 3D model of your body in the treatment position. This is part of the treatment planning process and will be done even if you have had a recent diagnostic CT scan. This scan will be used by the doctor and the dosimetrist to create your treatment plan. Three or four tiny tattoos (about the size of a pin head) may be put on your skin to assure accuracy of treatment on a daily basis.

#### **Verification Simulation:**

Usually occurring several days later, a verification simulation is performed on the treatment machine, which is called a linear accelerator. With you lying on the treatment table, x-ray images are taken using the planned treatment parameters to verify the treatment plan. This usually takes 30 to 45 minutes. After the verification, you will be given a daily appointment time for your treatment, which usually takes 15-30 minutes. The Radiation Oncology clinic treats from 8:30 AM to 3:45 PM, and appointment times are given subject to availability.

**Daily Treatments:**

You will be treated daily, Monday through Friday, but not on holidays. If you cannot make your appointment, please call us at (707) 269-4229 between the hours of 8:00 am until 4:30 pm. We strive to be on time for all patients but delays do sometimes occur. Please help us maintain the schedule for everyone by arriving on time or a few minutes early for your treatments.

**Weekly Evaluation:**

Once a week the Radiation Oncologist sees you for examination and/or discussion of any problems you may be experiencing. Please allow extra time on this day. The doctor or nurse will be glad to see you at other times if questions or problems arise; just speak to your radiation therapists and they will let the doctor and nurse know you need to see them.

**Appointments:**

Occasionally your appointment may need to be adjusted or delayed for a few minutes, or if scheduling conflicts arise, a new time may have to be given. Please discuss appointment time questions or conflicts with the radiation therapist who treats you. Additionally a modification in your treatment delivery plan may be needed after reaching a certain dose, and this may require additional images and/or a treatment planning CT scan that may require you to come at a different time than your regularly scheduled daily appointment.

**Family Members:**

Family member are allowed to come into the treatment room with you to observe how you are setup and see the treatment room on one occasion. After you are set up by the radiation therapists, the observing family member will be taken back to the waiting room. It is requested that after this time all family members wait in the waiting room as this assures patient privacy and prevents possible distractions while treatments are administered.

**Support Services:**

There are a variety of support services available to you and your family. Some of these include a consultation with the department social worker, Dietary Consultation from the nutritionist, the American Cancer Society, Humboldt Home Health Services, and supportive services from our Spiritual Health Department. Please contact any member of the department for more information about these services.

**Problems or Discomfort:**

Tell the doctor, nurse or radiation therapist of any change in your condition, especially if you are experiencing any discomfort. Please feel free to discuss questions or problems with the staff at the time of your appointments. If you have an emergency or need to reach your doctor after our normal operating hours, call the hospital operator at 445-8121 and ask them to page the on-call Radiation Oncology doctor.

We invite and encourage you to participate in your treatment. Your questions, information and suggestions help us give you the best care possible. Let us know how we can best serve you.

Sincerely,

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[www.stjosepheureka.org](http://www.stjosepheureka.org) [www.redwoodmemorial.org](http://www.redwoodmemorial.org)

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# Understanding Your Bills

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We understand the confusion that is associated with billing. To help you better navigate through the billing process, please note that there may be two separate bills reflecting the professional charge and the technical charge. Provided below are descriptions of charges that you may see from the different services provided at St. Joseph Hospital. Please note that charges are not limited to those listed below. Contact the billing department for any addition questions.

**Professional Billing (Physician):** is responsible for the billing of claims generated for work performed by physicians, suppliers, and other non-institutional providers for both outpatient and inpatient services.

**Technical Billing (Hospital):** is responsible for the billing of claims generated for work performed by hospitals and other institutions for outpatient and inpatient services. These services may include the use of equipment, supplies, facilities, laboratory services, and administered medications.

**Below are examples of billing you may receive:**

## St. Joseph Hospital

- Lab/Radiology Services
- Pathology
- Equipment/supplies
- IV drug / Administration
- Radiation Treatment Delivery
- Treatment Devices

**Patient Financial Services**

**(707) 269-4203**

## Michael W. Harmon M.D., Inc.

- Physician Charges
- Consultation
- Clinical Treatment Planning
- Treatment Managing
- Simulation
- Verification Simulation

**Louise Iverson**

**(707) 668-5743**

## HMS Hematology/ Oncology

- Physician charges  
Consultation  
Office Visits

**Customer Service Team**

**(707) 986-0001**

## Additional Billing Contacts:

**Radiology**– Humboldt Radiology (707) 445-5431

**Pathology**– Coastal Pathology (707) 443-3384

**Oncology Financial Counselor** (707) 445-8121 ext. 6316

# Radiation Oncologists Out-of-Network Status - Notice from St Joseph Hospital

The physicians (Radiation Oncologists) providing professional services in the Radiation Oncology department are independent contractors and do not contract with most private insurers. If your primary insurance is provided by any insurer other than Medicare, Triwest, Veterans, Medi-cal, Partnership Health and all plans through the Humboldt Del Norte Foundation and the Humboldt Independent Practice Association you **MUST** contact your insurer to confirm eligibility and coverage for the out-of-network physicians.

Your insurance should still provide you financial coverage for the physician's services as there are no other Radiation Oncologists providing these services within 150 miles but you must contact your insurance to ensure eligibility. The physicians employ their own biller, Louise Iverson, who can help you with this process but ultimately you are responsible for notifying your insurance that you need to see a doctor who is out of their preferred network.

*Please note, the hospital contracts with all major insurers in California and will bill your insurance directly for all hospital incurred facility related technical fees. Your insurance will pay the hospital directly for these fees, therefore the steps below apply only to the physician's professional fees and charges.*

When you are referred to Radiation Oncology or immediately after seeing a Radiation Oncologist for consultation:

1. Contact Louise Iverson, the physician's medical biller, via telephone **707 668-5743**.
2. Contact your insurance carrier via the phone number on the back of the card.
3. Inform your carrier that you need to see a Radiation Oncologist in Eureka, CA and request an out-of-network exemption. Because there are no other Radiation Oncologists practicing within 150 miles, your insurance should not direct you to another Radiation Oncologist that would require you to leave the area for treatment.
4. After completing your treatments the physician's biller will send a claim to your insurance for the professional services provided by the Radiation Oncologists. The amount billed to insurance is the "list price" prior to any discounts or negotiated settlements the physicians may reach with your insurance. You will not be personally liable for this amount.
5. Your insurance may send you notice that they will not pay the charges submitted by the physicians and that you are responsible for paying the physicians the full amount. Often times the insurance intentionally make this notice look like it is a bill that you are responsible for. If you receive this notice do not panic and do not submit payment to the physicians. Contact the physician's biller.
6. The physician's biller will continue to negotiate with your insurance over the amount your insurance will reimburse the physicians for the services they provided. During this time – which may sometimes take over a year – your insurance may continue to send you notices that you are responsible for paying the full amount to the physicians.
7. You may receive a check in the mail from your insurance. Your insurance company and the physician's biller will negotiate an amount the insurance will reimburse your Radiation Oncologists for their services and your insurance company might not pay the physicians directly but may instead send a check to you for the amount negotiated between the physicians and insurance.
8. Submit payment to the physicians for the amount sent to you from the insurance company.
9. The physicians will limit your out of pocket expenses to a previously agreed upon amount so long as you provide payment to the physicians in the amount sent to you by your insurance company. Contact the physician's biller for more information.

This information is provided to you by St Joseph Hospital to help you understand how you could receive services from the physicians who are out-of-network while still using your private insurance. This is an example of how that process may unfold and the hospital does not guarantee that your situation will mirror that which is described in this document. Please contact the physicians' biller who should provide you the most up to date and accurate information pertaining to your unique financial situation.

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**St. Joseph Health**   
**St. Joseph Hospital**



Michael W. Harmon M.D., Inc.  
Join Luh M.D. & Dusten Macdonald M.D.  
Radiation Oncology Department St. Joseph Hospital  
Telephone: 707 668-5743 Fax: 707 668-5873

The Radiation Oncologists may not be contracted with your insurance company. You must contact your insurance to confirm your eligibility and access to Out-Of-Network providers and services. If you need help please contact me at 707 668-5743 and I will be happy to assist you.

The physicians are contracted with Medicare, Triwest, Veterans, Medi-cal , Partnership Health and all plans through the Humboldt Del Norte Foundation and the Humboldt Independent Practice Association. You need do nothing if you are covered under one of these plans.

As there is no other Radiation Oncologist with-in 150 miles of the facility your insurance can not deny you services, verifying benefits will help to insure proper coverage and co-pay limitations.

The hospital bills independently from the physicians, please contact them for any questions concerning their technical billing procedures.

Again, please contact me at 707 668-5743 or by fax: 707 668-5873 for any questions. All calls are screened so be sure to leave a message if I am unavailable. I will get back to you as soon as possible. If you can only be reached during specific hours please let me know.

Thank you,

Louise Iversen  
Physician Billing Office



# Directions to the Dr. Russel Pardoe Radiation Oncology Center

2700 Dolbeer St Eureka, CA 95501  
(707) 269-4229

## From Areas South of Eureka:

- Take 101 North to Eureka
- Turn Right onto W Harris (This is a slight veer to the right up a one-way street headed up a hill across from the main BayShore Mall entrance)
- Stay on W Harris for 2.4 Miles
- Turn Left onto Harrison Avenue (if you pass Safeway you've gone too far)
- Turn Left onto Dolbeer St ( the street immediately before the Blood Bank. If you pass Buhne St you've gone too far)
- Stay Right at the intersection in front of the ER
- The department is on the left after the traffic circle.

## From Areas North of Eureka:

- Take 101 South to Eureka
- Turn left onto V Street continuing straight as it turns into West Ave
- Turn Left onto Myrtle Ave (travel for 0.5 miles)
- Turn Right onto Harrison Ave (travel for 0.8 miles)
- Turn Rt onto Dolbeer St (Immediately after the Blood Bank, if you pass Coast Central Credit Union you've gone too far)
- Stay Right at the intersection in front of the ER
- The department is on the left after the traffic circle.



The department is immediately adjacent to the traffic circle.

The entrance is to the left of the parking lot between the silver columns.

Wheel chairs are available for use inside the front door.

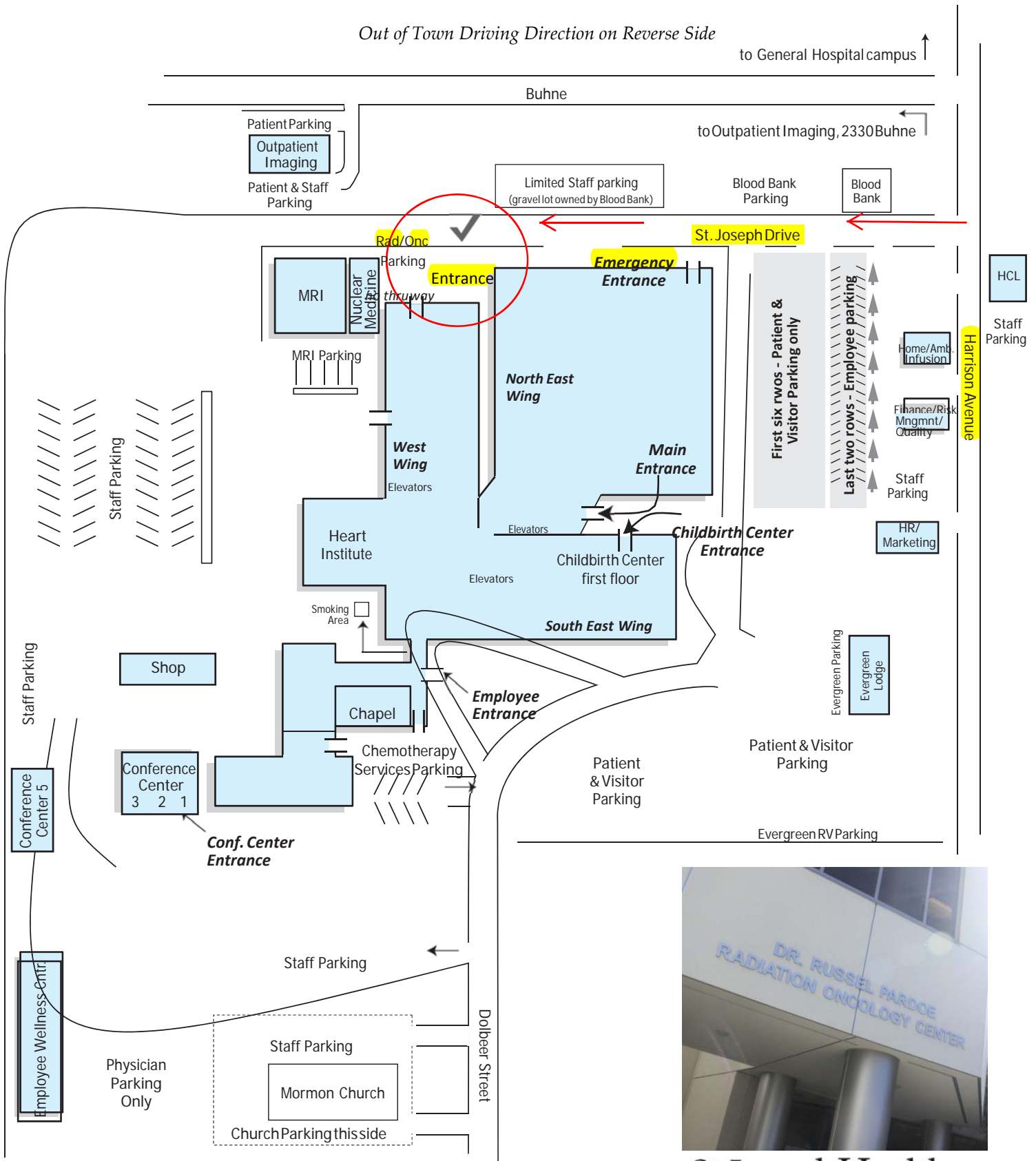
Parking spaces to the right of the entrance are available for exclusive use of Radiation Oncology visitors.

# St. Joseph Hospital

2700 Dolbeer Street, Eureka • 445-8121

Out of Town Driving Direction on Reverse Side

to General Hospital campus ↑



St. Joseph Health  
St. Joseph Hospital

(map not to scale)