

## Radiation Therapy Using the Active Breathing Coordinator (ABC) For Treatment to the Chest (Lymphoma)

### Information for Staff

#### **What is the Active Breathing Coordinator?**

The Active Breathing Coordinator (ABC) is a device that may be used during radiation therapy for treatment to the chest (lymphoma).

#### **Why would the ABC be used?**

Patients given radiation therapy to their chest (lymphoma) often receive some dose to their heart. When patients take a deep breath in and hold it, the heart moves away from the path of the radiation beam. The ABC device allows patients to hold their breath several times during radiation therapy delivery, thereby reducing the dose to their heart.

#### **How will patients be identified for the ABC?**

Patients receiving radiation therapy to their chest (lymphoma) will be told about the ABC at their consult visit. The radiation oncologist (RO) will determine the patient's eligibility for ABC.

#### **What happens next?**

The patient will return to the cancer centre for an education and coaching session. The patient will practice breathing using the ABC device. If the patient is able to effectively use the ABC, they will have their CT simulation completed with the use of the ABC device. Radiation therapy will also be delivered using the ABC device. The photo below shows how the patient and the ABC equipment are to be set up.



If it is not possible to use the ABC device, the patient will have their CT simulation, planning and treatment done while they are breathing normally.