



**PELVIC
RADIATION
DISEASE
ASSOCIATION**

Pelvic Radiation Disease **How you can help**

Leaflet for Healthcare Professionals

Many of the 22,000 people treated each year with pelvic radiotherapy have debilitating side effects which reduce their quality of life, sometimes for many years or decades.

Radiotherapy is highly effective in the treatment of pelvic tumours and there have been huge improvements in radiotherapy techniques and equipment in recent years. Unfortunately radiation damage to pelvic organs and tissues remains a significant problem, particularly for people treated many years ago.

Following pelvic radiotherapy, ask your patients if they have:

- > poor control of their bowels and/or bladder?**
- > bleeding from bowel and/or bladder?**
- > other gastrointestinal symptoms that interfere with their lives?**
- > effects on their sex lives, menopause and/or fertility?**
- > other symptoms, such as pain, swelling, numbness?**
- > psychological concerns?**

See overleaf for how you can help

- > prda.org.uk**
- > info@prda.org.uk**
- > 01372 744338**
(office hours only)

People could be at risk of Pelvic Radiation Disease (PRD) if they have had radiotherapy for bladder, bowel, rectal, prostate, anal, cervical, endometrial, vaginal or vulval cancer.

How can you help?

- > Increase your knowledge of how to manage symptoms of PRD via:
prda.org.uk/information-health-professionals/**
- > Refer people as appropriate to:**
 - Gastroenterology* and/or Dietetics***
 - Urology*; Gynaecology**
 - Services for pain, lymphoedema, bone problems**
 - Psychological support**
- > Provide self-help information such as the Macmillan Pelvic Radiotherapy Late Effects booklets**
- > Signpost people to the PRDA website**
- > Email PRDA with your questions for our Medical Advisory Panel**

*PRDA holds a database of professionals willing to accept referrals

The Pelvic Radiation Disease Association aims to help professionals and people affected by PRD so that they can reduce the burden of symptoms and improve quality of life. Please consider becoming a Friend of PRDA and support our vital work.

prda.org.uk info@prda.org.uk

**We are on facebook and Twitter
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