Radiation Therapy – Patient guidelines for severe winter weather

While it is important that patients receiving radiation therapy treatments complete their planned course of treatment without interruption, MercyOne Waterloo Cancer Center does not wish patients and their families take any unnecessary risks in attempting to travel for treatment during severe weather.

To help ensure the safety of our patients and our colleagues, the radiation therapy department at MercyOne Waterloo Cancer Center may close during periods of severe winter weather. Your normally scheduled treatments may be interrupted in a variety of ways:

• If the department is open and severe weather is forecast, our colleagues may attempt to contact you to either reschedule your treatment for an earlier time or cancel your treatment that day.

• If the department is open and severe weather is forecast overnight for the next day, our colleagues may attempt to contact you to delay or cancel your treatment for the following day.

• If severe weather occurs outside normal department hours, overnight or on the weekend, you are encouraged to call the department during normal hours (7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays) before traveling for your treatment. If the department is closed, there will be a recorded message estimating when the department will reopen or when to call again. Department closures may also be listed on the MercyOne website, at www.MercyOne.org/weather

• If at any time, you feel unsafe traveling for your treatment, please call to reschedule.

The direct number to the radiation therapy department is 319-272-2822. You should call this number to reschedule or cancel your treatment or check on the status of the department. This number is not answered outside normal department hours but will have a recorded message in the event of severe weather and serves as a voicemail system.

If you have an urgent medical need related to your radiation therapy treatment, please contact the radiation oncologist on call at 319-272-2800.