

Your doctor has referred you for a CT Scan. This will take place in the Imaging Department (also known as Radiology or X-Ray Department).

## What is a CT scan?

CT stands for Computerised Tomography.

A CT scan takes a series of pictures of your body using X-rays. The pictures show cross-sections or slices of your body. They are put together by a computer and we can view them on a screen. The scan shows a very detailed image of the inside of your body.

A Radiographer will perform the scan.

## The Imaging Team

The Imaging team is made up of:

- reception staff,
- healthcare support workers,
- nurses
- radiographers who perform the scan
- radiologists who report the scan

## Do I need to do any special preparation before the CT scan

### Full Prep

We have sent you a bottle of gastrografin (this is a laxative) to clear your bowel.

1½ hours before your CT scan, mix the bottle of Gastrografin with 500ml of water or juice, and drink it.

We will give you more Gastrografin when you arrive in the department.

### Do not take any other laxatives.

### If I am diabetic, taking tablets or medicine, should I stop them?

No. If you are taking prescription medication you should continue to take this as normal.

### Is there anything I need to tell the staff before I have my scan?

Please tell us if you think you may be pregnant.

In all cases, tell us if you have asthma, any allergies, or if you have had a problem with an injection for an x-ray or scan in the past.

### What will I wear?

Depending on the part of the body to be examined, we may ask you to remove some clothing and put on an examination gown. If this is the case you change in a cubicle before the scan. We will let you know when you arrive.

If you can wear loose fitting clothes with no metal fastenings like zips, poppers and hooks and eyes. This may save you having to change into a hospital gown.

You may wish to bring a dressing gown with you to put over your examination gown when moving from the cubicle to the scan area.

### What does the scan involve?

The scanner is like a large doughnut and unlike some other scanning machines the CT scanner is not enclosed.

All you have to do is lie still on the couch. The couch moves backwards and forwards through a large circular opening to allow pictures to be taken of different parts of the body.

This helps your doctor to diagnose conditions or decide on further tests and investigations.

### **Will I get an injection?**

Some patients may need to have an injection in a vein in their arm. This is X-ray contrast medium (colourless dye). This allows the radiologist (specialist doctor) to see the organs and vessels within the body more clearly.

If you need this injection the radiographer will explain this to you at the time of the examination.

### **How long will the scan take?**

This depends on which part of your body is being scanned but it typically takes between 10 and 20 minutes. However you should plan to be in the department for 1 to 1½ hours.

Although we make every effort to meet our appointment times, delays may occur due to emergency patients. We will let you know if this is the case.

### **What are the risks?**

As with X-rays, CT scans use radiation. The level of radiation used is very small and the benefits of the scan are thought to outweigh any risks.

### **Can I bring someone with me?**

You can bring a friend or relative with you but we will not allow them into the scanning room. Please note; we may ask them to wait in the main reception area.

If you need to bring your children please make sure there is also an adult with you as we are unable to provide childcare facilities.

### **After the scan**

In most cases, as soon as the scan is finished you can go home. If you have had an injection we may ask you to wait for 10 minutes before you leave the department. This is to make sure that you are alright and there is no sign of any allergic reaction to the injection.

You can eat and drink as normal and start your usual activities straight after the scan.

If you are breastfeeding and have had an injection we would advise you not to breastfeed for 24 hours.

### **When will I know the result?**

We will send the results to the person who referred you for the test. Your referrer will make arrangements to tell you the result.

### **Any other questions?**

Please ask a member of the team in the Imaging Department.

### **Your appointment**

Please

- Do not bring any valuables with you
- Call us if you need advice

Please call us as soon as possible if you can't keep this appointment – we can make you another and give yours to someone else.

### **Contact Centre Telephone Number**

0141 347 8379

[www.nhsgg.org.uk](http://www.nhsgg.org.uk)