Information about your

Nuclear Medicine Test

Your doctor would like you to come for a Nuclear Medicine test. This leaflet will answer some of the questions you may have.
Do I need to do anything right away?

Yes. If you are pregnant (or think you may be pregnant), please phone us now. Also, please phone and tell us if you are breast feeding.

If you are responsible for looking after small children, or have small children at home, please contact our staff for advice.

What is a Nuclear Medicine test?

We use a small amount of radioactivity to obtain information or images which will help your doctor understand your illness.

What does this involve?

We give you a small amount of radioactivity (radiation), we may inject this, or we may give you the radiation in a drink or tablet to swallow. You may then have to wait before images or samples are taken, to allow the radiation to reach the body part your doctor is interested in.

If your appointment letter tells you that there is more than one hour to wait, you may be able to leave the department during this time.

If images are required we will usually ask you to either lie on a bed, sit, or stand next to the cameras. It usually takes around 30 minutes to take any images. If your images will take longer we will tell you this in your appointment letter.

You are not usually required to remove any clothing, however we will ask you to remove metal objects, such as belts or items of jewellery. After the scan you can go home.
Do I need to prepare for the test?
Your appointment letter and information sheet will detail any preparation you need before your test e.g. if you can eat or not.

Can I return to work after my test?
There is usually no problem, but if your work involves radiation, or working with pregnant colleagues, children or babies please ask our staff for advice.

If I am taking tablets or other medication, do I need to stop?
For most tests there is no need to change any regular treatment. If you do need to stop taking any medication, your letter and information sheet will tell you. Please bring a note of your medication with you.

Will it hurt?
No. If the radioactivity is being injected only the injection needle may hurt a bit. This is much the same as having a blood test. You will not feel any ill effects from the injection. It does not make you sleepy. Most nuclear medicine tests do not prevent you from driving a car, unless your appointment letter tells you otherwise.

How much radiation will I receive?
The amount of radiation you receive is small and is typically less than that received from a CT scan.
Do I need to do anything after the test?
You can eat and drink as normal. We may ask you to drink more than usual for the rest of the day. This is to help remove the radioactivity from your body. The rest will disappear naturally. Depending on the test we may also ask you to restrict your contact with children and pregnant women. Please contact us if you have any questions about this.

What happens to the results of the test?
We will send a report to the hospital consultant or GP who asked us to do the test.

Can I bring a friend or relative?
Yes, however please do not bring children or pregnant women with you.

Your friend or relative will have to wait in a separate room while you have your test.

Radiation detectors at airports and ports
If you are planning on travelling in the near future, please ask a member of staff for information. Some airports or ports may now have sensitive radiation detectors. It is possible that they may be set off by a person who has recently had a Nuclear Medicine test.

Any more questions?
The staff in the department want your visit to be as pleasant as possible. If you have any other questions, please ask the staff in Nuclear Medicine. You can telephone, or ask us before your test starts.
Travel to Hospital by Patient Transport
(Ambulance or Ambulance Car)

A hospital or clinic appointment does not mean that you qualify for patient transport. If for medical reasons, you need this form of transport, you or your carer should arrange this. Please call the Scottish Ambulance Service on 0300 123 1236 at least 3 days before your appointment but no sooner than 30 days in advance. They will ask you a series of assessment questions to determine your need. Please tell the transport service how long your appointment will last, (this is on your appointment letter), if you don’t there may be no ambulance available to take you home.

Lines are open 8.00 am to 6.00 pm Monday to Friday and 8.00 am to 1.00pm on Saturday.

If you no longer need the ambulance or car please call the cancellation number on 0800 389 1333 as soon as possible before your appointment date and tell them your name, address, phone number, date of appointment and hospital clinic you are attending. Please also call the Nuclear Medicine department to cancel your appointment if you no longer need it.

Please note they will only transport your escort or companion if absolutely necessary for your medical need.
Travel Costs
Patients can claim their travel costs if they receive Family Credit, Income Support or are on a Low Income. Please note:

- Patients **must** bring proof of entitlement e.g. a letter confirming entitlement to benefit, HC2 certificate, NHS Tax Credit Exemption Card, Asylum Registration Card (ARC).
- Bus or rail tickets will be required as evidence.
- We can reimburse the cost of petrol for patients using their car.
- In some cases the travelling costs of an escort can be claimed.
- Taxi fares will not be reimbursed.

All patients travelling from the Highlands and Islands are entitled to claim **some or all** of their public transport costs of travel.

Please ask staff for further information or directions to the cashiers office.

Parking
Car parking is free (except at Glasgow Royal Infirmary) but there is a four hour maximum stay in operation Monday to Friday (from 7.30am to 4.00pm). Please allow time to find a car parking space.

Disabled parking spaces are available in the main car parks.
Public Transport
For transport information (including timetables, journey planners and routes) visit www.travelinescotland.com or call 0871 200 2233

For more travel information please www.nhsggc.org.uk/patients-and-visitors/transport-travel-parking/

Use of your images
We may use images or details from your test for research, teaching or presentation purposes to improve our service. You will not be able to be identified from this information. Please let us know if you do not wish your data used in this way.

Comments and Suggestions
We welcome comments and suggestions about any aspect of your attendance at the hospital.

Please speak with a member of staff or you can use our online feedback system, www.nhsggc.org.uk/patientfeedback

You can also comment on Patient Opinion www.patientopinion.org.uk

Complaints
If you wish to complain then in the first instance speak with a senior member of staff. You can ask for a guidance leaflet which is available from all clinics. You can also contact the Complaints Office on: 0141 201 4500 or complaints@ggc.scot.nh.uk.