

Nuclear Medicine

Ground Floor (Access via X-Ray Dept.)

Clifford Bridge Rd, Coventry, CV2 2DX

Cardiac gated blood pool scan

We provide this information to help you prepare for your visit to the Nuclear Medicine Department. It is important that you read all of the information enclosed about your appointment.

What is a cardiac gated blood pool scan?

A cardiac gated blood pool scan is a nuclear medicine test of the heart. It is often referred to as a MUGA (multiple gated acquisition) scan. It is used to measure how well your heart is pumping blood around your body.

IMPORTANT

Please contact the department on 02476 968212 as soon as possible if:

- You are pregnant (or think you may be pregnant)
- You are breastfeeding
- You have any special needs
- You will be using ambulance transport to attend your appointment and your appointment time is after midday.

Telephone: 02476 968212

Mon-Fri 08:30am – 5.00pm



Patient Information

Preparation

You may **only** have water to drink for 4 hours prior to your appointment time. Please avoid eating during this period.

You may continue to take medication as normal.

If you are diabetic and/or require advice about fasting for the test please contact the department. You may continue to take your medication as normal.

What will happen when I attend for my scan?

The test requires you to have two small injections approximately 20 minutes apart. On arrival in the department we will measure your weight in order to prepare the first injection. The first injection prepares your red blood cells to attach the second injection and will be injected into a vein.

The second injection is slightly radioactive but neither injection will make you feel any different. This will then allow us to image the blood flow in your heart.

After your scan there will be some radioactivity left in your body but this will not present a significant risk to other people around you. However, for the rest of the day, we suggest that you try to keep any time that you spend within arm's length of pregnant individuals, babies and small children as short as possible. However, there is no need to stop giving children essential love and care.

You will be in the department for approximately 1.5 hours.

How much radiation will I receive?

For this scan it is necessary to inject a small amount of radioactive tracer. The small risk from this is outweighed by the information that will be gained by taking the scan. A doctor will have checked the request to ensure that this is the appropriate test for you.

What happens when the pictures are taken?

Female patients will be asked to remove their bra prior to the scan. You will not have to get undressed, but you will be asked to remove any metal objects like braces or jewellery around your chest area before you lie on the bed of the scanner. Some ECG electrodes will be attached to your chest and you will be asked to raise your left arm whilst the pictures are taken. These are taken by a special machine called a gamma camera. The camera will come close to you and will remain there whilst a series of images is taken. The scan will take about 20 minutes.

What happens after the images are taken?

You will be asked to wait for a few minutes whilst your images are processed and checked. You will be told when this is completed and when you can leave. We are **not** permitted to discuss the results with you. The Doctor who requested the scan usually receives the results within a week.

Directions and Car Parking

The department is a short walk from the main entrance on the ground floor. To find the Nuclear Medicine department enter the hospital through the main entrance and turn left on to the West wing. Follow the signs for X-ray along the corridor. X-ray is located on the left hand side just past Fracture Medicine. The department is located through the double doors, where you will enter into the main reception area of the department.

Hospital car parking is available to all hospital patients and visitors. Spaces are limited so please allow plenty of time to locate a car parking space. A charge is payable, number plate recognition is in operation. Further information including directions, parking charges and site maps are available on the trust website (www.uhcw.nhs.uk).

Relatives and Escorts

You may wish to bring a friend or relative to accompany you for your investigation. They may be useful if you do not speak English very well or if you have any special needs. Please do not bring children or pregnant individuals with you.

Patient Information

Facilities available in the hospital

- Chilled water dispenser in the department
- Grand Union coffee shop, M&S Food Hall and WHSmith in the main reception foyer
- Three hospital restaurants

More information

All the staff would like to make your visit as pleasant as possible. If you have any concerns please talk to the person looking after you or contact us on the phone number overleaf.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 8212 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk

Document History

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