

Nuclear Medicine

Ground Floor (Access via X-Ray Dept.)

Clifford Bridge Rd, Coventry, CV2 2DX

DMSA kidney 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 DMSA kidney scan?

A DMSA scan is a Nuclear Medicine imaging study looking at the kidneys. It is used to see how well each kidney is working and can be used to detect any damaged area of the kidneys, for example as a result of repeated urinary tract infections. It is also used to assess the kidney function for many different disorders of the kidneys.

Important

Please contact the department as soon as possible if:

- If you have had a recent urinary tract infection (in the last 3 months)
- 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

If you have recently had (in the last 3 months), or are currently suffering with a urinary tract infection, please contact the Department. It may be necessary for us to reschedule your scan.

You may take medications as normal. Unless your doctor has told you to have restricted fluids, please make sure that you drink plenty of water before your appointment. You may eat as normal.

What will happen when I come for my scan?

When you arrive in the department you will be asked to drink a few cups of water so that you are well hydrated. We do not require a full bladder so you may go to the toilet as normal. You will be asked to empty your bladder prior to the test.

You will be given a small injection into a vein containing a radioactive tracer, and will be given a time to return for your images to be taken. This will be between 2 to 4 hours after the injection as it takes time for the tracer to be taken up by the kidneys. During this time you can leave the department and eat and drink normally.

What happens when the pictures are taken?

You will be asked to go to the toilet to empty your bladder just prior to the scan. You will not have to get undressed, but you will be asked to remove any metal objects like braces, belts or jewellery before you lie on the bed of the scanner. The pictures or images are taken by a special machine called a gamma camera. The camera will come close to you and will remain there whilst the images are acquired. There will be three sets of images taken and the scan usually takes around 30 minutes.

What happens after the images are taken?

You will be asked to wait in the department 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 3 to 5 days.

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.

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 Clinic. Enter X-ray reception and continue ahead, following signs for Nuclear 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. Further information including directions, parking charges and site maps are available on the trust website (www.uhcnhs.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.

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

Patient Information

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 024 7696 8212.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this Information in another language or format, please contact us on 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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