

Patient Information

## **Nuclear Medicine**

**Ground Floor (Access via X-Ray Dept.)  
Clifford Bridge Rd, Coventry, CV2 2DX**

## **Dynamic bone 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 dynamic body bone scan?**

A dynamic bone scan is a nuclear medicine test that looks at the activity of some cells within your bones. A small amount of a radioactive material is used to show how the bone cells are breaking down and being repaired. This breakdown and repair process is a normal way of keeping your bones healthy, but in some diseases these processes can be seen clearly on a bone scan. There are a number of different causes that can lead to these changes seen on a bone scan.

### **Important**

**Please contact the department as soon as possible if:**

- You are pregnant, or think you may be pregnant
- You are breastfeeding
- You have special needs
- You will be using ambulance transport to attend your appointment and your appointment time is later than midday.

**Telephone: 02476 968212**

**Mon-Fri 08:30am – 5.00pm**



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### **Preparation**

You can eat and drink as normal for the test and take all medications as normal.

### **What will happen when I attend for my scan?**

The test is in two parts. The first part involves you lying on a bed under the camera. You will be given a small injection into a vein in your arm and a first set of images will be taken straight away. You will then be given a time to return for further images approximately 2 to 3 hours later.

The delay before the second set of images is to allow the injection to be taken up in your bones.

### **Do I need to remain in the department?**

You may leave the department after your first set of images and return later for the second set of images. Alternatively, you may wait in the department if you wish.

It is important that you drink plenty of non-alcoholic fluids during this time and go to the toilet as you need. This helps to get good pictures of your bones and clear some of the radiation from your body. Please inform us if you are on any fluid restrictions when you arrive in the department.

After your injection you will be asked to limit your contact with small children and pregnant individuals for the remainder of the day. We suggest that for the rest of the day you try to keep any time that you spend within an 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.

The radioactivity in your body will soon disappear, but if you continue to drink plenty of liquids this will help to clear the radioactivity from your body more quickly. It is very unlikely that you feel any side-effects after the scan, but if you do please let staff in the Department know.

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### **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 second set of pictures are taken?**

Before the scan you will be asked to go to the toilet to empty your bladder. 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 imaging couch.

The pictures that are taken at this time will depend upon the request made by the doctor who referred you to the department and the information they are seeking. The duration of these pictures and the type of images taken will vary according to the area or areas of your body the doctors are interested in. Images of a specific body area such as the hips or knees will take approximately 20 to 30 minutes. In other cases it may be necessary to perform a whole body bone scan, where the scan takes an image of the whole skeleton. This will take approximately 25 minutes.

In some cases further images may be required once these have been reviewed.

### **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 that requested the scan usually receives the results within 3 to 5 days.

### **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

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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.uhcw.nhs.uk](http://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.

## 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](mailto:feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk)

### Document History

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