

Nuclear Medicine

Ground Floor (Access via X-Ray Dept.)

Clifford Bridge Rd, Coventry, CV2 2DX

Iodine-123 thyroid scan

We provide this information to help you prepare for your visit to the Nuclear Medicine Department.

What is an iodine-123 thyroid scan?

A thyroid scan is a nuclear medicine test of the thyroid gland. It can be used to assess any unusual lumps in your thyroid or to measure how well your thyroid is working.

Important

Please contact the department 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
- You have had a CT or X-ray scan within the last eight weeks where you were given an injection into a vein.

Telephone: 02476 968212

Mon-Fri 08:30am – 5.00pm



Patient Information

Preparation

Please telephone the Nuclear Medicine department as soon as you receive this letter so that you can advise us of the medications you are taking and other recent scans you may have had.

You can contact us on **02476 968212**.

It is important you ring to confirm your appointment so we can order the materials for your scan. We will ask you for a list of any medication you are currently taking as some medications interfere with this test. Please have this list ready when you ring the department. Some medications may need to be stopped for a short time prior to the scan. Staff will advise you about any changes that are required when they speak to you over the phone.

We also need to know if you have had a CT scan or X-ray in the last 8 weeks where you were given an injection into a vein.

Please do not take any cough mixtures or other medication that contains iodine from now until after the test. If in doubt, please ask your pharmacist.

What happens when I arrive for my test?

This investigation is in two parts. When you first arrive in the Department you will be given a small radioactive injection into a vein in your arm. You will then be asked to return approximately 4 hours later to have your scan. This delay is to allow the injection to be taken up by your thyroid.

What happens when the pictures are taken?

The images of your thyroid will take approximately 20 to 30 minutes. You will not have to get undressed, but you will be asked to remove any metal objects around your neck and chest, such as necklaces, chains or other jewellery, before you lie on the imaging couch.

The images are taken by a special machine called a gamma camera. The camera will come close to you whilst it takes the images but will not touch you.

Patient Information

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 7 to 10 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

Patient Information

- 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 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

Department:	Nuclear Medicine
Contact:	28212
Updated:	July 2022
Review:	July 2024
Version:	9
Reference:	HIC/LFT/090/06