

Nuclear Medicine

Kidney function test (GFR)

What is this leaflet for?

This leaflet will help you get ready for your visit to the Nuclear Medicine Department. Please read the information and call us if you have any questions. We are happy to help.

What is a GFR test?

GFR stands for Glomerular Filtration Rate. A GFR is a test that helps doctors check how well your kidneys are working. It is measured by working out how quickly a radioactive tracer is removed from your blood.

Please call us as soon as possible if:

- You have had a urinary tract infection in the last 3 months
- You are pregnant or think you might be pregnant
- You are breastfeeding
- You need any special help
- You will be using ambulance transport for your appointment, and it is after midday
- You don't live in your own private home, like a care home

Telephone: 024 7696 8212

Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm



Patient Information

How should you prepare?

- You can have a light breakfast or lunch before the test.
- Don't drink too much caffeine (like tea, coffee) after 10pm the evening before your test.
- You can take your medication as usual.
- Avoid doing any hard exercise just before, or during the test.

Please plan to be at your appointment for 5 hours.

What will happen when you come for the test?

When you arrive, you will be given an injection into a vein in your arm or hand. This injection has a small amount of radioactive tracer. We will then take 4 blood samples over the next 4 hours. We will let you know when you need to come back for the blood samples.

During this time, you can leave the department or stay in the waiting room, whichever you prefer. You can drink as normal, but please only eat light food. You might want to bring some food with you.

What happens after the test?

Once all the blood samples have been taken, you can leave. It takes some time to process the results of the test. Please note we cannot discuss the results with you. The doctor who requested the test will usually get your results within 5 working days.

It is very unlikely that you will feel any side-effects after the procedure, but if you do, please let us know.

How much radiation is involved?

This examination exposes you to ionising radiation. The amount of radiation is 0.05mSv(millisievert). 0.05mSv is about the same amount of natural radiation you get living in the UK for 7.3 days.

Patient Information

Your doctor has recommended this scan because the benefit outweighs the very low risk of harm. The risk of getting cancer because of this radiation is around 3 in 10000 people. This is very small compared with the 1 in 2 risk of someone getting cancer naturally in their lifetime.

Directions and car parking

The Nuclear Medicine department is a short walk from the main entrance on the ground floor. When you enter the hospital through the main entrance, turn left to go into the West wing. Follow the signs for X-ray along the corridor, and you'll find X-ray on the left, just after the Fracture Clinic. Go to the X-ray reception and walk straight ahead. Follow signs for Nuclear Medicine. You will go through the double doors and enter the main reception area of the department.

There is parking available for patients and visitors, but spaces can be limited, so it is a good idea to arrive early. There is a charge for parking, and automatic number plate recognition systems are in use. For more details about directions, parking charges, and site maps, visit the trust website at (www.uhcw.nhs.uk).

Facilities available in the hospital

- Chilled water dispenser in the department.
- Costa Coffee, M&S and WHSmith in the main reception area.
- Three hospital restaurants.

What if I still have questions?

If you have any questions or concerns, we're here to help. Call the person who referred you for this treatment or call Nuclear Medicine.

The Nuclear Medicine department is open:

Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm.

Call: 024 7696 8212

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.

Patient Information

The Trust operates a smoke-free policy.

Did we get it right?

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This will help us make further improvements and recognise members of staff who provide a good service.

Have your say. Scan the QR code or visit:

www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback



Document History

| | |
|-------------|------------------|
| Department: | Nuclear Medicine |
| Contact: | 28212 |
| Updated: | January 2025 |
| Review: | January 2027 |
| Version: | 8 |
| Reference: | HIC/LFT/702/08 |