

## Nuclear Medicine

# Lung Scan (VQ)

### 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 Lung Scan (VQ)?

A VQ scan is a special test that looks at how your lungs are working. It has two parts: one part looks at how blood flows to your lungs (called perfusion), and the other part checks how air moves in your lungs (called ventilation). By looking at both, doctors can find different lung problems, but it is most used to detect a pulmonary embolism (PE), which is when a blood clot blocks an artery in your lung. You might need to have both parts of the test or just one.

### Please call us as soon as possible if:

- 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 12:00 noon
- You don't live in your own private home, like a care home

**Telephone: 024 7696 8212**  
**Monday to Friday: 9:00am to 5.00pm**



## Patient Information

### **What else do you need to know?**

This first medicine is made from human serum albumin, which comes from human blood donations tested to meet EEC Regulations. The radioactive gas used in the test is an unlicensed medicine.

In the UK, medicines are approved for use by the UK's governing body for medicines, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). They check medicines are safe, work well and are of good quality. An unlicensed medicine is any medicine used without full approval from the MHRA. This could mean using a medicine for another use different to its usual purpose or using a medicine approved in another country.

You have been prescribed an unlicensed medicine because there is not a fully approved alternative available. Your doctors have thought carefully about giving you this medicine to make sure it's the best option for you, and they will monitor you closely to make sure it is safe.

### **How should you prepare?**

You may eat, drink and take any medicines as usual.

**Please plan to be at your appointment for 1 hour.**

### **What will happen when you come for your scan?**

When you first get to the department, you will get a small radioactive injection into a vein in your arm or hand. This injection helps a gamma camera to take pictures of the blood supply to your lungs. These pictures will be taken soon after the injection.

If you also need the ventilation part of the scan, you will wear a face mask and breathe in air mixed with a small amount of radioactive gas while the pictures are being taken.

### **What happens when the pictures are taken?**

When you go into the camera room, you won't need to take off your clothes, but you will need to remove any metal objects you are carrying or wearing, like necklaces and chains.

If they need to check air supply to your lungs, a mask will be placed over your nose and mouth. This won't affect your breathing, as you will mostly be breathing in room air mixed with a small amount of radioactive gas.

For the images, you will lie down on a bed. The camera will come close to you and slowly move around your chest whilst taking pictures. You will need to stay as still as you can, but you can breathe normally. This part of the scan will take about 20 minutes. A member of staff will be able to see you throughout the scan.

### **What happens after the scan?**

You will wait for a short while, while we process and check your pictures. We might need to contact the doctor who referred you for your scan to tell you what to do next.

### **How much radiation will you receive?**

This examination requires exposes you to ionising radiation. The amount of radiation is 2.2 mSv (millisievert). 2.2 mSv is about the same amount of natural radiation you get living in the UK for 9 months and 18 days.

Your doctor has recommended this scan because the benefit to you outweighs the very low risk of harm. The risk of getting cancer because of this radiation is around 1 person in 9091. 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

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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](http://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 foyer.
- Three hospital restaurants.

### What if you 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: 09:00 to 17:00.**

**Call: 02476 96 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.

The Trust operates a smoke-free policy.

Document History	
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### 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](http://www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback)

