

Nuclear Medicine

Lymph Scan

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 Lymph Scan?

A lymph scan checks how your lymphatic system is working to see if there is any lymphoedema or swelling in your arms or legs. You will be given 4 small injections under your skin containing radioactive material. These injections will be given between your toes or fingers. A special camera called a Gamma camera will take pictures of your lymphatic system.

The medicine we use is made from human serum albumin, which comes from blood donations that are carefully tested to meet EEC Regulations.

Please call us as soon as possible if:

- You are pregnant or think you might be pregnant
- You are breastfeeding
- You have any additional needs
- 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



Patient Information

Telephone: 024 7696 8212
Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm

How should you prepare?

You can eat, drink and take all your medications as usual.

Please plan to be at your appointment for 3 to 4 hours.

What will happen when you come for your scan?

When you arrive in the department, you will be taken to a scanning room and positioned on a scanning bed. You will then be given 4 small injections of radioactive material under your skin, either in between your toes or your fingers. We will then take pictures of your legs or arms using a special camera called a gamma camera. The camera will come close to you but will not touch you. Each picture will take 20 minutes and will be repeated at intervals for up to three hours after the injections. The person scanning you will let you know at the time when the rest of the images will be taken.

How much radiation will you receive?

This examination exposes you to ionising radiation. The amount of radiation is 0.18 mSv(millisievert). 0.18 mSv is about the same amount of natural radiation you get living in the UK for 37 days.

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 9 in 10000 people. This is very small compared with the 1 in 2 risk of someone getting cancer naturally in their lifetime.

What happens after the images are taken?

You will be asked to wait for a few minutes while your images are checked. A member of staff will let you know when all the pictures have been checked, and you can leave. We are not able to discuss the results with you. A specialist Doctor will issue a report and send it to the Doctor who requested the scan usually within 3-5 working days.

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.uhcnhs.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 you still have questions?

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

The Nuclear Medicine department is open:

Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm

Phone: 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.

The Trust operates a smoke-free policy.

Patient Information

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

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