

Nuclear Medicine

Ground Floor (Access via X-Ray Dept.)

Clifford Bridge Rd, Coventry, CV2 2DX

MIBG cardiac 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 an MIBG scan?

A MIBG scan is a nuclear medicine test which involves a small injection of a radioactive tracer to help detect certain types of heart conditions.

MIBG stands for Metaiodobenzylguanidine which is the name of the pharmaceutical that is administered during this study. It is labelled with iodine-123 and is used to look at abnormal cell growth within your body.

Important

Please **ring the department on receipt of this letter** to confirm that you will be attending your appointment (see orange sticker). This will enable us to order the injection required for your test. Failure to do this by the specified date will result in the cancellation of your appointments.

Please contact the department as soon as possible if:

- You are pregnant (or think you may be pregnant)
- You are breastfeeding



Patient Information

- You have any special needs
- You will be using ambulance transport to attend your appointment and your appointment time is after midday.

Telephone: 02476 968212

Mon-Fri 08:30am – 5.00pm

Preparation

It is very important that you follow the instructions below:

Please telephone the Nuclear Medicine Department as soon as you receive this letter. This is to confirm your appointment so that we can order the materials for your scan. You will also be asked for a list of any medication you are currently taking as some medications interfere with this test.

What will happen when I attend for my scan?

Staff within the department will explain the procedure to you fully when you arrive for your appointment.

Day 1

When you first arrive in the department you will be given a small tablet to swallow. This contains a small amount of iodine and is used to block the subsequent radioactive iodine injection from being taken up by your thyroid. You will be given another tablet to take at home the following morning.

Approximately one hour later a small injection of a radioactive tracer (MIBG) will be given into a vein in your arm. This injection is similar to having a blood test.

After this you will be given a time to return for your images to be taken. This will be approximately after 1 hour and 4 hours after the injection as it takes time for the radioactive tracer to be taken up in your body. This set of images will take about 30 minutes each.

Patient Information

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 images are taken by a machine called a gamma camera.

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.

After your injection you will be asked to limit your contact with small children and pregnant individuals for 24 hours following the injection. We suggest that for this period you try to keep any time that you spend within arm's length of pregnant individuals, babies and small children as short as possible.

What happens after the images are taken?

After the images have been taken you will be asked to wait for a few minutes whilst they 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 who requested the scan usually receives the results within 5 to 7 days.

Please continue to drink plenty of fluid for the next 3 days and empty your bladder regularly.

If you are planning to travel abroad within 4 weeks of your scan, please inform us when you attend. There are sensitive radiation detectors in airports and ports for security purposes and residual radioactivity within your body may trigger these detectors. We will issue you with a letter that explains about the radioactive tracer that you have been administered.

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).

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 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.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk

Document History

Department:	Nuclear Medicine
Contact:	28212
Updated:	August 2022
Review:	August 2024
Version:	1
Reference:	HIC/LFT/2736/22