

## Nuclear medicine

# MIBG cardiac scan

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 MIBG cardiac scan?

MIBG stands for Metaiodobenzylguanidine. A MIBG scan uses a small injection of a radioactive tracer to help provide information about the function of the nerves in your heart.

**Please call the department when you get this letter to confirm you can attend. This lets us order the injection needed for your test. If you need to cancel your appointment, let us know as soon as possible. If you do not call to confirm, your appointment will be cancelled.**

We will ask you for your name, hospital number, date of birth, weight, and appointment date and time.

This number is for confirming your appointment:

**Phone: 024 7696 7191      Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm**

### Please contact the department as soon as possible if:

- You are pregnant or think you might be pregnant
- You are breastfeeding
- You have any special needs
- You will be using ambulance transport for your appointment, and your appointment time is after midday.

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

## Patient Information

### **How should you prepare for your scan?**

If you are currently taking any medication, please ring the department and let them know. We may need to arrange for you to stop some medication a short time before the scan.

### **What will happen when you arrive?**

When you arrive, you will be given a small tablet to swallow. The tablet contains a small amount of iodine and is used to block any radioactive iodine from the injection being taken up by your thyroid. You will be given another tablet to take at home the next morning.

Around 1 hour after, you will get a small injection of a radioactive tracer (MIBG) into a vein in your arm or hand. After your injection, you can leave or stay in the department if you prefer. You will need to come back about 4 hours later for your scan. We will tell you when to come back when you have your injection.

It is important that you drink plenty of fluids and empty your bladder regularly. This helps to remove any of the injection that you do not need from your body.

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

Before your scan, we will ask you to empty your bladder. You will not have to get undressed, but you will need to remove any metal objects like braces, belts, or jewellery. For the scan you will lie on a special scanning bed. The pictures are taken by a special machine called a gamma camera. The camera will come close to you and scan your body. The pictures will take around 30 minutes and it is important that you keep still during this time, but you can breathe as normal.

### **What happens after the images are taken?**

After the scan, you will need to wait for a few minutes while your pictures are checked. We will tell you when this is complete, and you can leave. We cannot give you the results right away. The doctor who asked for the scan will usually get the results in 7 to 10 working days.

## Patient Information

### How much radiation will you receive?

This examination exposes you to ionising radiation. The amount of radiation is 4.8 mSv(millisievert). 4.8 mSv is about the same amount of natural radiation you get living in the UK for around 1 year and 10 months.

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 1 in 4167 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 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 the Fracture Clinic. Enter X-ray reception and continue straight, following signs for Nuclear Medicine. The department is located through double doors, where you will enter the main reception area of the department.

Hospital car parking is available for all patients and visitors. Spaces are limited, so please allow plenty of time to find a parking space. There is a charge for parking, and automatic number plate recognition systems are in use. For more information, including directions, parking charges, and site maps, visit the trust website ([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 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 you for this treatment or call Nuclear Medicine.

The Nuclear Medicine department is open:

**Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm.**

**Phone: 02476 96 8212**

## Patient Information

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.

### 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)

#### Document History

Department:	Nuclear Medicine
Contact:	28212
Updated:	April 2025
Review:	April 2027
Version:	2
Reference:	HIC/LFT/2736/22