

Patient Information

Nuclear Medicine

Ground Floor (Access via X-Ray Dept.)

Clifford Bridge Rd

Coventry CV2 2DX

Lung Scan (VQ)

This information will help you to prepare for your visit to the Nuclear Medicine department.

What is a Lung Scan (VQ)?

A VQ scan is a nuclear medicine test that looks at your lungs. There can be two parts to this scan; one part looks at the blood flow to your lungs (this is called the perfusion) and the other part looks at the airflow to your lungs (called the ventilation). By comparing the two sets of pictures from the scans, it is possible to investigate various lung conditions, but it is most commonly used to detect a pulmonary embolism (PE). This is a blockage to one of the arteries in the lung caused by a blood clot. You may need to have both parts of the test or just one.

Important

Please contact the department as soon as possible if:

- you are pregnant (or think you may be pregnant)
- you are breastfeeding
- you have any special needs
- you will be using ambulance transport to attend your appointment and your appointment time is after midday.

Tel: 02476 968212

Mon-Fri: 8:30am-5:00pm



Do I need anything to prepare for my scan?

No. You may eat, drink and take any medicines as normal.

What will happen when I come for my scan?

When you first arrive in the department, you will be given a small radioactive injection into a vein in your arm or hand. This injection enables a gamma camera to take pictures of the blood supply to your lungs.

This drug is prepared from human serum albumin derived from human blood donations tested according to EEC Regulations.

Shortly after the injection into your vein a set of pictures will be taken.

If you need to have the ventilation part of the scan you will also be asked to breathe in air mixed with a small amount of radioactive gas. This will be given through a face mask whilst the pictures are being taken.

This radioactive gas is an unlicensed medicine.

Within the UK, medicines are approved for use by the UK's governing body for medicines, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), to ensure appropriate quality, safety and effectiveness of the medicine in relation to how it is to be used.

An unlicensed medicine is any medicine used within the UK without full approval by the MHRA. This may include using a medicine for another use outside of its licenced indication or using a medicine licensed for use by another country.

You have been prescribed an unlicensed medicine because there is no suitable licensed alternative available for the nuclear medicine study.

However, the clinical team treating you will have thought carefully about prescribing and administering this medicine to ensure it's the most appropriate medicine for you and its use usage is carefully monitored to ensure patient safety.

Should you have any concerns with the study you have been booked in for, please do not hesitate to contact the Nuclear Medicine department on 02476 968212 or your consultant.

What happens when I have my scan?

On entering the camera room, you will be asked to remove any metal objects you are carrying or wearing. These may include necklaces and chains. You will not need to undress.

If images of the air supply to your lungs are also required, then a mask will be secured over your nose and mouth. This will not interfere with your normal breathing as you will mostly be breathing in room air mixed with a small amount of radioactive gas. The images are taken with you lying on a bed. The camera will come close to you and will slowly rotate around your chest during the scan. You will be required to keep as still as possible, but you can breathe as normal. These images will take approximately 20 minutes.

A member of staff will be able to see you throughout the scan.

Please allow up to **1 hour** for your appointment in total.

What happens after the scan?

You will be asked to wait in the department for a short while whilst the images are processed, checked and reported. In some cases staff in the department may have to contact the doctor who referred you for the scan so that they can give further instructions on your management.

How much radiation will I receive?

For this scan it is necessary to inject and inhale a small amount of two radioactive tracers. The small risk from these 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.

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 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.

Patient Information

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 and number plate recognition is in operation. 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.
- Costa coffee shop, M&S Food hall, and WHSmith shop 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

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