

Patient Information

Nuclear Medicine

Sentinel lymph node (breast) procedure

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 Sentinel node injection procedure?

This procedure involves a small injection of a radioactive protein into the skin around the nipple. The protein will travel through the lymphatic system and settle in nearby lymph nodes. This helps the surgeon find these lymph nodes during surgery using a special probe.

Please note, the protein is made from human serum albumin which comes from blood donations, it's been tested to make sure it is safe, according to EEC Regulations.

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 midday
- You don't live in your own private home, like a care home

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



How should you prepare?

You don't need to do anything to prepare for this test. But if you are having surgery the same day, make sure to follow any instructions your doctor gives you for that.

If you come in the day before your surgery, you can eat and drink as usual on the day of the injection, and you can go home right after.

Please plan to be at your appointment for 30 minutes.

What will happen when you come for your procedure?

You will be given a small injection of a radioactive tracer into the skin on your breast. The injection will not make you feel any different.

What happens after the procedure?

You will need to wait in the reception area for 10 minutes while we get a report ready for you. You'll take this report with you to give to the staff when you go for your surgery.

How much radiation will you receive?

This examination exposes you to ionising radiation. The amount of radiation is 0.02 mSv(millisievert). 0.02 mSv is about the same amount of natural radiation you get living in the UK for 4 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 person in 1 million. This is very small compared with the 1 in 2 risk of someone getting cancer naturally in their lifetime.

Relatives and escorts

You can bring a friend or relative with you to your appointment but please **do not** bring children or pregnant people with you.

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.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: 9am to 5pm.

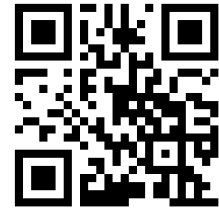
Phone: 024 7696 8212

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.

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

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