

## Nuclear medicine

# Thyroid 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 thyroid scan?

A thyroid scan is used to check any unusual lumps in your thyroid or to measure how well your thyroid is working.

### 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 have had a CT or X-ray scan in the last 8 weeks where you were given an injection into a vein.
- You don't live in your own private home, like a care home
- You are taking any medication

**Tel: 024 7696 8212**

**Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm**

### How should you prepare for your scan?

If you are taking any medication, please ring the department and let them know. You might need to stop some medication a short time before the scan.

## Patient Information

If you have had or think you may have had a CT scan, MRI scan or a kidney scan in the last 6 weeks and had an injection in your arm or hand, please ring the department and let us know.

Please do not take any cough mixtures or other medication containing iodine from now until after the test. If you are unsure, please ask your pharmacist or contact the department.

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

You will be given a small injection into a vein in your arm or hand. The injection has a radioactive medicine in it, but it will not make you feel any different. We will take pictures of your thyroid around 20 minutes after the injection.

After the injection, try to avoid spending too much time close to small kids or pregnant people for the rest of the day. You can still care for them. It is very unlikely that you will feel any side-effects after the scan, but if you do, please let us know.

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

You will be taken to a scanning room and asked to lie on a scanning bed. You will not have to get undressed, but you will be asked to remove any metal objects around your neck and chest, such as necklaces, chains or other jewellery. A special camera called a gamma camera will then be positioned over your thyroid to take the pictures. The camera will get close to you but will not touch you and you won't be enclosed. The images will take around 20 to 30 minutes.

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

After the scan, you will need to wait for a few minutes while your pictures are checked. You will be told when this is complete, and you can leave. We cannot discuss the results with you. The doctor who asked for the scan usually gets the results in 7 to 10 working days.

### **How much radiation will you receive?**

This test exposes you to ionising radiation. The amount of radiation is 1mSv (millisievert). 1mSv is about the same amount of natural radiation you get living in the UK for 21 weeks.

## Patient Information

Your doctor has recommended this scan because the benefit to you outweighs the very low risk of harm. The risk of getting cancer because of this radiation is around 1 in 20000 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: 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](http://www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback)



#### Document History

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