

Nuclear Medicine

Ground Floor (Access via X-Ray Dept.)

Clifford Bridge Rd, Coventry, CV2 2DX

Thyroid 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 a thyroid scan?

A thyroid scan is a nuclear medicine test of the thyroid gland. It can be used to check any unusual lumps in your thyroid or to measure how well your thyroid is working.

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.
- You have had a CT or X-ray scan within the last eight weeks where you were given an injection into a vein.

Tel: 02476 968212

Mon-Fri 09:00am-5:00pm



Do I need to do anything to prepare for my scan?

Yes. It is very important that you read and follow the instructions given in this leaflet:

Please telephone the Nuclear Medicine Department as soon as you receive this letter. It is very important that we know about any medication that you are currently taking, as some medications may need to be stopped for a short time before the scan.

It is also important that you inform us if you have had a CT/MRI scan or special kidney scan within the last 6 weeks where you were given an injection in your arm.

Please do not take any cough mixtures or other medication containing iodine from now until after the test. If in doubt, please ask your pharmacist or contact the Department.

What will happen when I attend for my scan?

There are two different tracers that can be used for the thyroid scan. The Nuclear Medicine department will select the one that is most appropriate for you and the purpose of the test.

The radioactive tracer will involve an injection into a vein in your arm or hand, similar to a blood test. Depending upon which tracer you have been injected with, the pictures of your thyroid will either be taken around 20 minutes or 4 hours after the injection. You will be informed of when the images will be taken by staff in the Department.

In a small number of cases you may be required to attend for pictures 24 hours after the injection. Staff will inform you of the need for this when you contact the Department to inform us of your medication and this will also be specified on the accompanying appointment letter.

Will the injection make me feel any different?

No. The injection is slightly radioactive, but it will not make you feel any different.

What happens when the pictures are taken?

The images of your thyroid will take around 20 to 30 minutes. 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, before you lie on the bed of the scanner. The images are taken by a special machine called a gamma camera. The camera will come close to you whilst it takes the images but will not touch you.

What happens after the images are taken?

You will be asked to wait for a few minutes whilst your images are processed and checked. You will be told when this is completed and when you can leave.

We are **not** allowed to discuss the results with you. The doctor who requested the scan usually receives the results within 7 to 10 days.

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 make sure that this is the right test for you.

You will be asked to limit your contact with small children and pregnant individuals for up to 24 hours following the injection. This depends upon the injection you are given. 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.

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. More 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

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