

Nuclear Medicine

Ground Floor (Access via X-Ray Dept.)

Clifford Bridge Road, Coventry, CV2 2DX

Whole body bone 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 whole body bone scan?

A bone scan is a nuclear medicine test that looks at the activity of some cells within your bones. A small amount of a radioactive material is used to show how the bone cells are breaking down and being repaired. This breakdown and repair process is a normal way of keeping your bones healthy, but in some diseases these processes can be seen clearly on a bone scan. There are a number of different causes that can lead to these changes being seen on a bone scan.

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.

Telephone: 02476 968212

Mon-Fri 08:30am – 5.00pm



Preparation

You can eat and drink as normal for the test and take all medications as normal.

What will happen when I attend for my scan?

The test requires you to have a small radioactive injection. This allows us to image your bones. It is slightly radioactive, but will not make you feel any different.

After the injection you will be asked to wait for about 3 to 4 hours before the pictures can be taken. During this time, you will be free to leave the department if you desire or you are most welcome to wait in our department.

It is important that you drink plenty of fluids during this time and go to the toilet as you need. This helps to get good pictures of your bones and clear some of the radiation from your body. Please inform us if you are on any fluid restrictions when you arrive in the department.

You will be given a time to return to the department for your scan after the injection.

After your injection, you will be asked to limit your contact with small children and pregnant individuals for the remainder of the day. We suggest that for the rest of the day you try to keep any time that you spend within arm's length of pregnant individuals, babies and small children as short as possible. However, there is no need to stop giving children essential love and care.

The radioactivity in your body will soon disappear, but if you continue to drink plenty of liquids, this will help to clear the radioactivity from your body more quickly. It is very unlikely that you feel any side-effects after the scan, but if you do please let staff in the department know.

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 ensure that this is the appropriate test for you.

What happens when the pictures are taken?

Before the scan you will be asked to go to the toilet to empty your bladder. You will not have to get undressed, but you will be asked to remove any metal objects like braces, belts or large pieces of jewellery. You will be asked to lie on a special couch whilst the pictures are taken by a machine called a gamma camera. The gamma camera will come close to you and will remain there whilst the bed you lie on slowly moves out to obtain images of your bones. You will not be enclosed.

The scan will take approximately 20 to 30 minutes and it is important that you keep still during this time.

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 permitted to discuss the results with you. The doctor who requested the scan usually receives the results within 3 to 5 days.

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.

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, number plate recognition is in operation. Further

Patient information

information including directions, parking charges and site maps are available on the Trust website (www.uhcnw.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 the phone number overleaf.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact us on 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@uhcnw.nhs.uk

Document History

Department:	Nuclear Medicine
Contact:	28212
Updated:	July 2022
Review:	July 2024
Version:	7
Reference:	HIC/LFT/701/08