



A lifetime of specialist care

Your nuclear medicine thyroid scan – appointment information

Name:

Date:

Time:

Points to remember

- Please contact us on 01895 826 514 within seven days of receiving this leaflet and letter to confirm your appointment. If we do not hear from you, we may have to give your appointment to another patient.
- It is also important that you contact us to find out if you need to stop taking any medication before you come in for the scan.

What is nuclear medicine?

Nuclear medicine is a special way of taking images of your body. Before we can take these images, we need to give you an injection called a tracer. This is a substance with a small amount of radioactivity that highlights the part of the body we need to see in more detail.

About your thyroid scan

This scan looks at how your thyroid gland is working. We will give you a tracer injection and wait 20 minutes before we take the scan.

Then, we will ask you to lie still on a scanning bed while the camera takes images of your thyroid gland.

How long will the scan take?

The process from injection until the end of the scan should take about 45 minutes. The scan itself takes about 20 minutes.

Is there any risk from the radiation?

The amount of radiation used is small and kept to a minimum. We believe that the benefits of having the scan far outweigh any risk. To avoid exposing children unnecessarily to radiation, please do not bring them with you to the department. Please ask if you have any questions.

Female patients

You should not have this scan if you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant, or are breastfeeding.

People with diabetes

You do not need to change your diet or treatment. Please bring your insulin and any snacks as needed.

After your scan

You can eat and drink as usual and continue with normal daily activities after your scan. The tracer injection will not make you feel sleepy and will not stop you from driving a car. To prevent unnecessary radiation exposure to children, avoid long periods of close contact with them for the rest of the day.

Results

We will send your results to the hospital consultant who asked for the scan.

Additional information

We scan many patients each day in our department. We will always try to keep to your appointment as closely as possible. If you are late or if there is an emergency at the hospital, it may not be possible to carry out your scan at the arranged time.

Hospital transport

If you need hospital transport to bring you to us, please ask your GP to arrange this.

How to find us

The nuclear medicine department is in the ANZAC Centre, behind the main reception at Harefield Hospital.

Contact us

If you have questions about your scan, or would like to change your appointment, please contact us on 01895 826 514, Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm.

Private patients

If you are a private patient, please bring your private insurance details to your appointment, or pay your invoice on the day of your scan.