



Your CT Scan

Scanning Department Radiology

Great Western Hospital

If you need to cancel or you have queries or concerns please contact the department on

01793 60 50 51

Opening Hours

Monday-Friday 9.00am – 4.30pm



Your CT Scan

What is a CT Scan?

A computerised tomography (CT) scan uses X-rays and a computer to create detailed images of the inside of the body.

Can I bring a friend or relative?

Yes. Your relative or friend may come with you to the scanning department, but they may not be able to stay with you for the CT scan. Please note, there are no childcare facilities within Radiology

What clothing shall I wear?

Clothing free of metal fastenings and zips may minimize the need to change, however you may be asked to remove your clothing and put on a hospital gown. Metal and jewellery in the area to be scanned will need to be removed.

Can I take my medicines as usual?

Yes, continue to take all medicines as normal

What do I do before I come?

Do not eat anything for one hour before your appointment. You may drink as normal.



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What happens during the CT scan?

- The scan usually takes about 10-20 minutes to complete, but can take up to an hour including preparation time
- A contrast dye, often iodine, may be injected into a vein in your arm. This contrast dye highlights your blood vessels and creates clearer pictures.
- **If you are a diabetic on Metformin, you must tell the Radiographer before you have this injection. We will need to give you instructions about its use following the scan.**
- You'll usually lie on your back on a table that passes into the CT scanner.
- The radiographer will operate the scanner from the next room.
- While the scan is taking place, you may be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds whilst the table moves through the scanner.



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Are there any risks?

- In rare instances, some people may have an allergic reaction to the contrast dye.
- During your procedure you will receive a dose of ionising radiation to help us form images of your body and this will provide your doctor with detailed information.
- The radiation dose is always kept as low as possible. The actual dose you receive will vary depending on the type of procedure you are having, but your doctor has considered this and feels that this is the best procedure for you to have to help diagnose or treat your condition.
- We are all at risk of developing cancer in our lifetime and the added risk from undergoing your procedure is small and is outweighed because of the benefits it provides and every procedure that you have in Radiology has been assessed to ensure that the benefit outweighs the risk. For more information see the displays within the department or ask a member of staff.



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What happens after?

There are no after effects.

You will be able to drive yourself home.

You may eat and drink normally.

How will I know the results of the CT scan?

- The results will not be available on the day because the Radiologist will need to study your images and write a report.
- You will receive a letter or follow up appointment from the clinic to discuss the results.
- If your GP requested the scan, please visit the surgery for your results.

What if I am pregnant or breast feeding?

Please contact the booking office on the telephone number below.

Are there any weight restrictions?

If you weigh more than 140kg (22 stone) please let us know.



Your CT Scan

What if I need to contact you to change or cancel my CT Scan?

Ring **01793 605051**
Monday – Friday 9.00am -4.30pm



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This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net

Document Control

Division Diagnostics & Outpatients:
Department: Radiology & Scanning
Approved Date: 2 October 2018
Next Review Date: November 2021
Document Number: D&O - PIL0081