



## Your DEXA Examination

# Radiology Department

# Great Western Hospital

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

**01793 60 50 59**

Opening Hours

**Monday - Friday 9.00am – 4.30pm**



# Your DEXA Examination

## **What is a Dexa Scan?**

“Dexa” means:

Dual Energy X-ray Absorptiometry

It is an examination where the density of the bones is measured. From this measurement an assessment of the strength of the bones can be made.

The results are compared with a normal range for people of a similar age. If the scan result indicates that your bone density is below normal, predictions about how this might affect you can be made.

This means that people “at risk” of a fracture can be advised about the treatment available and what is most suitable for you.

## **Are there any risks involved?**

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



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ensure that the benefit outweighs the risk. For more information see the displays within the department or ask a member of staff.

## **Do I have to have this scan?**

It is the most effective way of ascertaining whether you would benefit from treatment to improve the strength of your bones.

## **Weight Limit**

There is a weight limit of 204kg (32 stone) for the equipment. Please ring for further advice if you think you may be too heavy.

**Queries or concerns ring**

**01793 60 50 59**

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## **Before the examination**

- If you have given birth or been breast feeding within the past year, we will want to delay your scan. Please ring us.
- Wear loose fitting clothes with no metal zips, buttons or buckles. This means that there will be no need for you to change when you get here.

## **During:**

- Before we start, the radiographer will ask you some questions about yourself and your condition.
- In the scan room, you will be asked to lie down on the couch. She will then adjust it so that you are in the correct position.
- The scanner is simply an “arm” which is positioned over you. You will not be enclosed. You will be able to see all around you at all times.



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- The scan takes approximately 15 minutes

## After

- There are no after effects from this scan.
- If your GP referred you, the results will be sent to your GP surgery.
- If a Doctor from the hospital sent you, you will receive a letter or follow-up appointment to discuss the results

From 1st January 2019 smoking will not be permitted on any NHS site in England. Smoking will not be permitted within any of our buildings or anywhere outside on our sites. Smoking facilities will not be provided. Please be considerate of others when vaping in hospital grounds.

**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](mailto:gwh.pals@nhs.net)**

### Document Control

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