

PATIENT INFORMATION

Patient's Name: _____

You have an appointment in the Nuclear Medicine Department on:

Date: _____ **Time:** _____

Please arrive 10 minutes early. This gives you time to check in. Please bring with you photo identification and your BC CareCard (personal health number).

Please do not bring your children with you unless you bring someone to care for them while you are having the test.

If you are not able to keep your appointment, please call **604-806-8008** as soon as possible. Please give us at least 24 hours notice so we can use your time for someone else. When you call, we will give you another date and time for your test.

Things you need to know

Why am I having this test?

Your doctor wants to check how well your thyroid gland is working. The scan shows the size and shape of your thyroid gland. The thyroid is a gland in the neck that controls the chemical processes in the body that regulate the rate the body functions (called body metabolism).

What do I need to do before the test?

★ Are you allergic to latex or Iodine? Pregnant? Breastfeeding? Please tell us★

You do not need to do anything special to prepare for this test. You may eat and drink as usual.

However, your doctor may ask you to stop taking some of your medicines. Check with your doctor if you are not sure.

What happens during the test?

This test happens over two days. The first day you are here for about 30 minutes. The second day it takes about 30 – 60 minutes to complete the test.

Day 1: In order to see your thyroid gland clearly, we need to give you a radioactive material called 'tracer'. We do this by asking you to drink a small amount of radioactive Iodine in water. We tell you what time to come back to our department the following day.

Day 2: a) We use a small device called a probe to measure how much of the tracer was absorbed into your thyroid gland. This is the part of the test called 'Thyroid Uptake'.

b) We take a set of pictures or images of your thyroid called the 'Thyroid Scan'.



How you want to be treated.

What can I expect after my test?

There are no side effects.

We send your test results to your doctor within 5 working days after the test is completed. If your doctor does not have your results within two weeks, please ask your doctor to contact us.

If you are planning to travel within 72 hours of this test, please tell the Nuclear Medicine receptionist. We will give you a letter that says you have been given a small amount of radioactivity for this test.