

**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.

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## **Things you need to know**

### **Why am I having this test?**

Before surgery, your doctor wants to find the 'sentinel' node. This is the first node in the chain of lymph nodes that drain fluid ('lymph' – pronounced lim-f) from the area where the lump or skin lesion is. This first node is often where cancer can spread from. This test can help the doctor decide if your lymph nodes need to be taken out along with the lump or skin lesion. [A 'lesion' is a sore or abnormality on the skin (pronounced lee-shun).]

### **What do I need to do before the test?**

**★ Are you allergic to latex? 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 and take your medicines.

### **What happens during the test?**

- Depending on where the lump or skin lesion is, you may need to change into a hospital gown.
- In order for us to see the sentinel node clearly, we need to give you four (4) small injections of a radioactive material called a 'tracer' close to the area of the lump or lesion. The injection is just below the skin and hurts a little as the needle is going in. The tracer will not make you feel any different.
- We take pictures or images right away. These take 15-30 minutes.
- We then wait one hour for the tracer to be filtered through to the lymph nodes. You may wait in our waiting room or leave the department during this time.



How you want to be treated.

- **You must return within one (1) hour after the injection.**
- When you return, we take more images to see which node the tracer was filtered to first. This takes another 30 minutes.

**How long will the test take?** Plan on being here for about 2½- 3 hours.

**What can I expect after my test?**

There are no side effects to this test.

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 one month of this test, please tell the Nuclear Medicine receptionist. We can give you a letter saying that you have had a small amount of radioactivity for this test.