

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 for a blood clot in your lungs. This is called a 'pulmonary embolism'. The test checks both the blood flow to the lungs and the flow of air in and out of the lungs. You may also hear this test called a 'V/Q Scan'.

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.

Plan on being here for about 1 hour. Bring any medicines you may need during this time.

What happens during the test?

There are two parts to this test:

Part 1: This part looks at the airflow of your lungs (we call this *ventilation*). We give you a small amount of radioactive material called a 'tracer' to breathe in. You put on a mask and breathe in a mist for about 5 minutes. (Don't worry. We explain how to do this.) Once you have finished breathing the radioactive mist, we take a set of images of your lungs.

Part 2: This part looks at the blood flow through your lungs (we call this *perfusion*). To see the blood flow clearly, we need to give you another tracer into your blood stream. To do this, we use a needle to insert a small flexible tube into a vein in one of your hands or arms. We inject the tracer into the vein. This is called an intravenous injection (*intra* meaning 'into' and *venous* meaning 'vein', commonly called an IV).



How you want to be treated.

Once injected, the tracer travels through your bloodstream to the blood vessels in your lungs. We then take another set of images of your lungs.

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.