

**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?

This is a test that looks at how well your kidneys are working. It is called a renogram. If you have high blood pressure, we use this test to see if your kidneys are causing you high blood pressure.

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

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

#### For 4 hours before the test:

- You must not eat anything.
- Drink at least three glasses of water during this time (a glass being 8oz or 250ml). You can use the toilet in our department at any time.

Your doctor should have told you which of your medicines you need to stop taking before this test and when. If you are not sure, please give your doctor a call.

Please wear loose, comfortable clothes, preferably with no metal buttons, zippers, or buckles.

### What happens during the test?

In order to do this test, we need to start an intravenous (*intra* meaning 'into' and *venous* meaning 'vein', commonly called an IV). We use a needle to put a small flexible tube into a vein in one of your arms and connect it to an IV set up. We then use the IV to give you radioactive materials called a 'tracer'. This helps us see the kidneys clearly.

There are three types of Kidney Scans or Renograms:

1. **Renogram with Glomerular Filtration Rate (GFR)** – This test checks how well and how fast your kidneys filter wastes.

We inject into your IV a tracer called ‘DTPA’. We take pictures or images of the kidneys as the tracer moves from the blood, filters through the kidneys and into the bladder.

We also take blood samples 1 hour and 3 hours after the injection. This tells us how much of the tracer is left in your blood and the rate (how fast) it is being filtered out into the kidneys.

This type takes about 3 ½ hours to complete.

2. **Captopril Renogram** – This test is for those with high blood pressure.

We give you a medicine called ‘Captopril’. It is a small pill that is easily swallowed. This is a medicine that lowers blood pressure.

One hour later, we inject a tracer called ‘MAG3’. We take pictures or images of the kidneys as the tracer moves from the blood, filters through the kidneys and into the bladder.

We take your blood pressure at various times throughout the test.

This type takes about 1½ hours to complete.

3. **Captopril Renogram with Glomerular Filtration Rate** – This is a combination of the first two types of tests.

This type takes about 4 hours to complete.

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

There are no side effects related to the tracer. If you were given the Captopril, you may get a little dizzy moving from a lying to standing position. This is because your blood pressure may be lower than your body is used to. This should go away over the next few hours. Just change positions slowly.

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.