

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 fast your stomach empties food. If it is faster or slower than normal, then it may cause symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, cramping, or diarrhea.

What do I need to do before the test?

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

For at least 6 hours before the test: You must not eat or drink anything. We need your stomach to be as empty as possible for this test.

- If you are taking regular medicine(s) directed by your doctor and need to take it during these 6 hours, take your medicine(s) with a small amount of water.
- If you are diabetic and your test is booked for the morning, eat a small meal at or before 6:00 am then nothing to eat or drink after that. If your test is booked for the afternoon, do not eat or drink anything after 9:00 am.

How long does the test take? The test takes about 2 hours.

What happens during the test?

We get you to eat 3 scrambled eggs and drink some juice when you arrive in our department. We mix into the eggs a very small amount of a radioactive material called a 'tracer'. The tracer allows us to see how the food you have just eaten moves through your stomach.

We take pictures or images every 15 minutes for 90 minutes (1 ½ hours).



How you want to be treated.

Please let us know if you need to use the toilet during this time. You can use the toilet anytime between when we need to take images.

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.