

**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?

Your doctor has ordered a bone scan to detect possible bone problems. A bone scan helps us to see such things as fractures, infection, arthritis or the spread of certain cancers.

### 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?

In order to see your bones clearly, we need to give you a radioactive material called a 'tracer'. We give the tracer into a vein. To do this, we use a needle to insert a small flexible tube into a vein in one of your arms or feet. This is called an intravenous injection (*intra* meaning 'into' and *venous* meaning 'vein', commonly called an IV). We remove the intravenous once we finish injecting the tracer.

Once injected, the tracer travels through your bloodstream and is absorbed into your bones. Sometimes we take images or pictures as we are injecting the tracer but this is not the main part of the test. It takes a little while for the tracer to be absorbed by your bones. While this is happening, you may leave the department if you wish, but you **must return** for the main part of the test. We will tell you when to come back. This can be 2 to 6 hours after the injection.

Please drink at least three full glasses of liquid (like water or juice) after the injection.



How you want to be treated.

Before we begin the main part of the test, you need to empty your bladder (go to the toilet or go pee). We have toilets in our department for your use.

For the main part of the test, we take more images. Depending on how many images we need to take, this can take up to one hour.

### **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.