

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 an overgrowth or an increase in the normal amount of bacteria in the small bowel or small intestine.

What do I need to do before the test?

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

For four weeks before the test - You must not take any antibiotics.

From 12:00 am the night before the test - Do not eat or drink anything from this point until we let you know you can eat.

- If you are taking regular medicine(s) directed by your doctor and need to take it during this time, take your medicine(s) with a small amount of water.
- If you are diabetic, you can eat a small meal at 6:00 am then nothing to eat or drink after that.

What happens during the test?

We ask you to drink a small amount of liquid radioactive carbon 14 glycocholic acid. As this substance is digested, gases are absorbed into the blood stream and brought into the lungs. We take breath samples for these gases. The more gases present, the more bacteria in the small bowel.

To collect the gases, we ask you to blow through a special tube into a sealed container with liquid in it. The liquid absorbs carbon dioxide from your breath. This takes about 2 minutes

We have to collect your breath samples every hour for next 5 hours.

We check each of your breath samples and measure the amount of gases.

What can I expect after my 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.