

Information for patients having an X-Ray



Please arrive early to give yourself time to check in. Please bring with you photo identification and your BC CareCard (personal health number).

Please do not bring children under the age of 12 with you unless you bring someone to care for them while you are having the test.

If this patient does not speak fluent English, an interpreter 16 years of age or older must stay with the patient for the duration of the test.

If you are not able to keep your appointment, please call the department 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.

Medical Imaging is a scent free department. Patients and visitors should avoid using scented personal care products and perfumes.

This brochure tells you about having an x-ray. It explains what is involved and what the possible risks are. It is not meant to replace informed discussion between you and your doctor, but can act as a starting point for such a discussion.

The radiology department

Radiologists are doctors specially trained to interpret the images and carry out more complex examinations. The Radiologists are supported by x-ray Technologists (radiographers) who are highly trained to carry out x-rays and other imaging procedures.

What is an X-Ray?

An X-Ray is a picture of the internal structures of the body produced by exposing a sensitive photographic film or imaging plate to a controlled source of x-rays.

Not all x-ray images will actually be recorded on film, but may be kept in digital form, and shown on a computer screen.

Are you required to make any special preparations?

No. However, please notify the radiology department if you:

- Had a similar x-ray recently

- A woman who is or might be pregnant.

Can you bring a relative/friend?

Only in special circumstances where they may be needed as an interpreter, will they be permitted to accompany you into the actual x-ray room. **Children are not allowed** to accompany you in the room, nor are they permitted to wait unattended in the waiting room. Hospital staff is not responsible for child minding while you have your x-ray.

Upon Arrival

The Technologist will explain the procedure for your examination, and show you to a private cubicle where you may remove your garments. Depending on what type of x-ray is required, you may be asked to put on a hospital gown.

Who will you see?

You will be cared for by a Technologist (radiographer) and your x-ray images will be examined and reported on by the Radiologist.

What happens during the x-ray?

You will be taken into the x-ray room where you will sit/ stand/ lie down against an imaging plate or part of the x-ray machine. Although

the technologist will go behind a screen, you will be seen and heard at all times.

You will be asked to stay still and sometimes to take a deep breath in and hold it for a few seconds.

Will it be uncomfortable?

No, however the Technologist may have to physically assist you in moving your body into different positions for the x-ray, which may be briefly uncomfortable.

How long will it take?

Your time with us will depend on the type of x-ray being done as well as your mobility or physical condition; the process of taking a single x-ray will last only a few minutes, however, some examinations require that x-rays be taken in different positions. This usually takes no more than 5-10 minutes. More complex imaging or more than one body part to be x-rayed requires more time to complete. Count on being in the x-ray department for up to 30 minutes. The X-ray department services the entire hospital and may be interrupted to do emergency cases before you. If your x-ray is delayed- we appreciate your patience.

Are there any risks?

The amount of radiation you receive from a single x-ray is very low. There are small risks involved with using x-rays, but Technologists are trained to keep radiation exposures down to a minimum while ensuring optimum diagnostic accuracy.

Female patients who are, or might be pregnant, must inform the referring doctor, Technologist or Radiologist, prior to having any x-rays.

When will you get the results?

The images will be examined after your visit, and a written report on the findings sent to your referring doctor is normally available in 14 days.

Important Notice

If you should have any questions or concerns about the information in this brochure, please feel free to ask the medical staff involved. This brochure is for general information only and is not a substitute for talking to your health-care provider.

Other sources of information

Websites

For general information about radiology departments, visit The Royal College of Radiologists' website: www.goingfora.comT

NHS Direct

For health advice or information you can call NHS Direct on 0845 45647 or visit the website: www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

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Legal notice

Please remember that this leaflet is intended as general information only. It is not definitive, and The Royal College of Radiologists cannot accept any legal liability arising from its use. We aim to make the information as up to date and accurate as possible, but please be warned that it is always subject to change. Please therefore always check specific advice on the procedure or any concerns you may have with your doctor.

The Clinical Radiology Patients' Liaison Group (CRPLG) of The Royal College of Radiologists has prepared this leaflet.

Board of the Faculty of Clinical Radiology

The Royal College of Radiologists, March 2008

If being used for a hospital leaflet, it is recognised that certain other information would need to be included for the patient as described below.

Notes for medical staff

- **This patient information leaflet may be downloaded and, if necessary adapted, for medical use and is also a direct source of information for patients accessing this website. The Clinical Radiology Patients' Liaison Group of The Royal College of Radiologists has produced this leaflet.**

Hours of Operation:

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

Saturday:

Sunday

Patient's Name: _____

Appointment Date: _____

Appointment Time: _____

Contact Numbers: