Undergoing a kidney function test

Introduction
We have been requested by your hospital doctor to arrange a kidney function measurement test. This study is performed in our Nuclear Medicine Department and enables us to accurately measure kidney function.

The aim of this leaflet is to explain what you can expect when you come for your nuclear medicine isotope test.

What is nuclear medicine?
Nuclear medicine is a method of imaging or measuring functions of the body using a gamma camera and using radiopharmaceuticals (radioactive ‘dyes’). To look at the function of the body, nuclear medicine uses gamma rays. These are very similar to x-rays except gamma rays are produced by a radiopharmaceutical dye injected into the bloodstream.

The radiation dose is kept as low as possible, similar to an x-ray dose, which means it may take quite a long time to create the images.

What should I do if I cannot attend for the appointment?
Please inform us as soon as possible on 01623 622515, ext 3284 or 3205, if you are unable to attend.

A special injection will be prepared for your test which cannot be used on any other patient.

Am I suitable for this isotope test?
Most patients are suitable for kidney function test. However, you must ring us on 01623 622515, ext 3284 or 3205 for advice if
- You are pregnant
- There is any possibility that you may be pregnant
- You are breastfeeding.

How do I prepare for this test?
There are no restrictions regarding eating or drinking. If you are taking any medication, you may continue to take this as normal.

You will be asked if you would like to listen to music throughout your scan - you may bring your own CD if you wish.

What happens during the test?
You should report to the reception desk in the original x-ray department adjacent to the Emergency Department. You will be directed to the Nuclear Medicine Department.
- You will have a cannula inserted into each arm, one to give the radiopharmaceutical and the other to take small amounts of blood during the day.
The cannula used to give the radiopharmaceutical will be taken out immediately after it has been given.

You will need to return three times over the next four hours for blood samples to be taken.

Exact times will be given to you on the day.

**Are there any risks to having a kidney function test?**
The benefit from the test outweighs the small risk from radiation. The test results will allow your hospital doctor to make the correct treatment decision for you.

To avoid babies and children being exposed to unnecessary radiation, it is good practice to avoid prolonged contact with them for at least 12 hours following the injection.

**Can I drive after my test?**
Yes, there is no restriction on driving after your injection.

**How do I get the results?**
All test results are reviewed by a consultant radiologist who is a doctor specialising in reporting this type of test. You will then be sent an appointment to see your hospital doctor to discuss the results when they are available.

**Contact details**
If you are unsure about anything concerning this procedure or require more information, please do not hesitate to call us on 01623 622515, ext 3284 or 3205.

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**Useful website**
You may like to read [http://www.goingfora.com/radiology/nuclear_medicine.html](http://www.goingfora.com/radiology/nuclear_medicine.html)

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**Further sources of information**

Our website: [www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk](http://www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk)

External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them. Stating a web address does not imply we endorse a particular site. Neither does not stating a web address imply lack of endorsement.

**Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)**
The PALS team is available to help with any of your comments, compliments or concerns and will ensure a prompt and efficient service. Contact details:

- **King’s Mill Hospital** 01623 672222
  (out of hours answer phone)
  Email: Pals.kmh@sfh-tr.nhs.uk

- **Newark Hospital** 01636 685692
  (out of hours answer phone)
  Email: Pals.nwk@sfh-tr.nhs.uk

If you need this information in a different language or format, please contact PALS, as above.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this publication, Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust cannot accept liability for errors and omissions. The information should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you.

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