

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Undergoing a kidney function test

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 radio- pharmaceuticals (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, extension 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** contact us on 01623 622515, extension 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.

Please leave any valuables at home. You are responsible for all personal items you bring into hospital and the Trust cannot accept responsibility for their loss or damage.

What happens during the test?

You should report to the reception desk in the main x-ray department, which is adjacent to the Emergency Department. From there 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?

When your scan is finished no instant diagnosis can be made. The images produced are recorded digitally and reviewed and a report sent to your referring clinician. These results will be discussed with you by your referring clinician. If you have been referred from the hospital and have not received your follow-up appointment within four weeks please contact your consultant's patient coordinator.

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

Your radiology records

This Trust is part of a group of NHS hospitals in the East Midlands that have a shared NHS radiology system, which is used by our healthcare professionals to access your radiology records.

If necessary, your radiology records may also be accessed by healthcare professionals in other NHS hospitals in the East Midlands or NHS Service Providers, to ensure you receive consistent, safe and effective clinical care and treatment, irrespective of where you receive your care.

If you have any concerns about providing information or how we use it, please discuss this with radiology staff so that you fully understand the potential impact on your care or treatment.

Further sources of information

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions

Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service:

King's Mill Hospital: 01623 672222

Newark Hospital: 01636 685692

Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net.

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you. 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. If you require a full list of references for this leaflet, please email sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

To be completed by the Communications office
Leaflet code: PIL202504-07-UKFT
Created: November 2012 / Revised: April 2025 /
Review Date: April 2027