

# Coming for a CT scan

## What is a CT scan?

- A CT (Computed Tomography) scan uses X-rays and a computer to create pictures of inside your body.
- It can diagnose conditions and allow guidance for further tests and treatments.
- It is quick, painless, and safe.
- CT scanners are designed to ensure that the X-ray dose is kept as low as possible.

## Before your appointment

- Please follow any preparation as detailed in your appointment letter.
- If you have hearing or mobility difficulties, please let us know when you arrive.
- Please remove all metal, such as jewellery/piercings or belts, from the area of the body we are scanning.
- **Let the department know if you could be pregnant.**



## What happens during my scan?

### Before

- Your letter will say if you need to arrive early.
- You will be asked some questions such as name, address, and date of birth.
- You may be asked to change into a gown.
- You may need a cannula inserted in your arm if an injection of a contrast dye is needed.

### During

- You will lie on the CT table which will move as it goes into the scanner.
- A Radiographer will be behind a glass screen during your scan but they will be able to see, hear and speak to you.

- It is important to lie still, and you may be asked to hold your breath.
- If you need an injection of contrast dye, you may feel a warm flush or an unusual taste in your mouth.
- The scan just takes a few minutes and you will hear some noise as it takes the pictures.

### After

- If you were given contrast dye, you may be asked to wait in the department for 10 minutes after the scan.
- If you had a cannula in your arm, this will be removed.

### Questions you may be asked

- If you need contrast dye you will be asked about any history of allergy, asthma, diabetes, kidney problems and hayfever.
- You may be asked about any medications you take.
- **If you have ever had a reaction to X-ray contrast dye then please contact the Radiology department prior to your appointment.**

### How will I get my results?

- Scan results are not available at the CT department.
- Results will be sent back to the doctor who requested the scan. This may take up to 10 – 14 days or longer. Your referring doctor will then send you a follow-up letter or appointment to discuss your results.
- If you have been referred by your GP, you may need to make an appointment to discuss results if you have not heard from them in 10 – 14 days.
- If you're worried there has been a delay in getting your results, please contact the team that referred you for your scan.

### Further information

- If you are unable to attend your appointment, please change it by phoning the number on your appointment letter.
- Patient Transport will only be made available if you have a clinical need.
- Call 0300 123 1236 (calls charged at local rate). It can take up to 28 days in advance to book. Please ensure you have your CHI number available.

For more information, and to watch a video of a typical CT appointment in NHS Lothian, please visit this link:

<https://vimeo.com/817637164/48f4cd63f6> or scan the QR code to your right.

