Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Having a Computerised Tomography (CT) Scan

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Having a Computed Tomography (CT) Scan

Patient Information

Radiology Department

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Introduction

If the information within this leaflet does not answer your questions, please contact the Computed Tomography (CT) Department where a Radiographer will be pleased to help you:

CT Department

Telephone 01942 822368

Please pay attention to your appointment letter. Your scan may be performed at either Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wrightington Hospital or Leigh Infirmary. If you attend the wrong site, you will likely be turned away without a scan.

For health and safety reasons, please contact the CT Department if your weight is equal to or more than 222 Kg (35 stone), as the CT scanner has a weight limit.

What is a CT scan?

It is a diagnostic test, which uses X-rays to produce very detailed pictures of the body.

What does the scanner look like?

A picture of the scanner is shown below. The scanner is open at both ends and you can speak to the staff at all times. You will be asked to lie on a bed which will move slowly through the scanner whilst it takes the pictures.



What will happen during the scan?

- Depending on your condition an injection of X-ray dye may be required to provide clearer pictures. A Radiographer or Radiologist will give you the injection, if required

- The Radiographer will not be able to stay with you in the scan room but can see and hear you at all times

- You will be asked to lie still and may need to hold your breath at times during the scan

- The scan will normally take between 10 to 20 minutes

If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to ask the Radiographer.

What happens after the scan?

- If you have had the injection of dye during the scan, you will be asked to wait in the department for up to half an hour after the scan. In addition, you will be given information regarding drinking increased fluids for the next 24 hours to help with rehydration

- Otherwise, once you have left the department, you can eat and drink as normal

When will I get the results?

The Radiologist will need to study your scans carefully to make the diagnosis. They will produce a written report of their findings, which will be sent to the doctor who referred you for the scan.

Are there any risks involved?

- The scanner uses x-rays to produce the scans. The Radiologist will consider the risk of the scan and compare it with the benefit you may get from an accurate diagnosis

- There is a small risk of an allergic reaction with the injection of dye you may be given. The Radiographer will ask you a series of medical questions before the injection is given

- If you think that you may be pregnant you must tell the Radiographer

When you arrive at the hospital

Please follow the directions to the Radiology or X-ray department and report to the main reception desk.

Please note it is occasionally necessary to delay your appointment time if the scanner is required in an emergency.

Who will look after you during the scan?

A team of staff will care for you in the Radiology Department.

Reception staff	will meet and greet you
X-ray Assistant	will help you to prepare for your scan
Radiographer	will perform the scan and care for you in the scan room
Radiologist	will examine the scan pictures and make a report or diagnosis

Preparing for the scan

Please refer to your appointment letter for instructions specific to your own examination.

Contact information

If you have any queries regarding the examination, or suggestions on how we may improve any aspect of our service, please do not hesitate to speak to us either on the day of your examination or contact us on 01942 822368 (Monday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm).

Relatives and escorts

You can bring a relative or friend with you to the Radiology Department, however they will not normally be allowed in the examination room.

Children / vulnerable adults

Please be aware that the department does not have the facilities to supervise children / vulnerable adults. If you need to bring a child or vulnerable adult with you, you must bring an appropriate adult to supervise them whilst you are having the examination.

Interpreters

If you require an interpreter, please contact the department before you begin your preparation so that this can be arranged. (**Please Note:** Hospital policy states that relatives cannot act as interpreters).



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