

**You have been referred urgently to hospital  
for a CT scan (Computed Tomography)  
of your chest to rule out a serious condition**

Please read the information contained  
in this leaflet carefully



## **Why have I been referred urgently for a CT scan?**

Your GP has asked for you to have an urgent CT scan of your chest, within the next week. This is because your GP has identified symptoms that may indicate something serious.

## **What is a CT scan?**

A CT scan is a type of x-ray which enables a radiologist, (doctor specialising in reading x-ray images), to look at your lungs in more detail. This will help to identify if you have a serious condition or not. CT scans are routinely carried out on many people these days and it is becoming one of the first tests to be requested when investigating something that could be serious.

## **But what if I am claustrophobic, (frightened of being in closed or confined spaces)?**

You need not worry as the CT scanner is like an open 'donut' or 'polo-mint' ring, not a closed in tunnel.

## **How long is the scan for and can I bring in a relative or a friend along?**

The scan itself only takes 5 minutes or so, but the process of preparing for the scan, including registering, may take up to 30 mins. Yes you can bring along a friend or relative, but they will remain in the waiting area while you have the scan, the radiographer will accompany you to the scanner.

## **Do I have to have a needle?**

In certain instances a cannula (a small plastic tube) may be used to inject a dye at the time of the test. This will be verified by the x-ray doctors or radiographers, (highly skilled technicians who perform the scan).

## **What are the risks from the injected dye?**

The CT scan dye is Iodine based, so please inform the radiographers if you have an allergy to Iodine.

The dye is administered in some situations, to get a better picture of certain structures. Very rarely, the dye can damage kidneys, usually in patients who already have kidney disease. If you have not had a blood test to look at your kidney function in the last 2 months, your GP will request one at the time of referring you for the scan. The radiographers or x-ray doctors check this before performing the scan.

## What are the risks of radiation from a CT scan?

We are constantly exposed to background radiation from the ground and air around us. X-rays and CT scans do provide an additional dose of radiation. The small risk of cancer that can develop decades later is balanced by the necessity of performing a detailed test to make a diagnosis, or exclude something serious and then having timely treatment, if required.

## What do I need to do now?

Make sure your GP surgery has all your **correct contact details** address and telephone number, including a mobile number. The hospital will try to contact you by telephone to arrange appointments. If they are unable to reach you, they will send an appointment to the address provided by your GP on the referral form. (Please note that a call from the hospital may come up as 'unknown' or 'withheld' on your mobile).

The radiologist will review and report the results of your CT scan. You will be contacted with the results, either by the hospital, or by your GP, usually within 2 weeks. You may receive a letter or a phone call from the hospital team.

Please **try not to cancel** the scan or any following appointments, they are important. Should you be unable to attend, please contact the hospital as soon as possible.

**If you have not heard from the hospital within 1 week of seeing your GP and receiving this leaflet, please contact the respiratory office on 01932 722305.**

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## Further Information

We endeavour to provide an excellent service at all times, but should you have any concerns please, in the first instance, raise these with the Matron, Senior Nurse or Manager on duty.

If they cannot resolve your concern, please contact our Patient Experience Team on 01932 723553 or email [asp-tr.patient.advice@nhs.net](mailto:asp-tr.patient.advice@nhs.net). If you remain concerned, the team can also advise upon how to make a formal complaint.

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**We can provide interpreters for a variety of languages, information in larger print or other formats (e.g. audio) - please call us on 01932 723553.**

**To use the Text Relay service, prefix all numbers with 18001.**

اگر نیاز به ترجمہ دارید، لطفاً با شماره 01932 723553 تماس بگیرید۔

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਤਰਜਮੇ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ فون ਕਰੋ: 01932 723553

اگر آپ اس کا اردو زبان میں ترجمہ چاہتے ہیں، تو براہ کرم اس فون نمبر 01932 723553 پر رابطہ کریں

Se precisa de uma tradução por favor contacte: 01932 723553

আপনার অনুবাদের দরকার হলে এখানে যোগাযোগ করুন : 01932 723553

यदि आपको अनुवाद की ज़रूरत है तो कृपया इस नंबर पर फोन करें: 01932 723553

Jeżeli chcemy, aby te informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić 01932 723553

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