

Care Gram

Nuclear Medicine Test

Date of Test: _____ **Test Time:** _____

Welcome

Welcome to the Licking Memorial Hospital (LMH) Radiology Department. Your doctor has requested a Nuclear Medicine Test. This test uses a radioactive substance to produce images and measurements of organs and tissues. A certified technologist will do the test. A radiologist will read the test. This is a doctor who specializes in medical diagnosis by X-ray.

A nuclear medicine test is used to look at:

- Kidney function
- Blood flow and function of the heart
- Lungs for respiratory and blood flow problems
- Blockage of the gallbladder
- Bones for fracture, infection, arthritis, or tumor
- The presence or spread of cancer
- Bleeding in the bowel
- The presence of infection
- Thyroid function

Allowing Time

The test usually takes 30 minutes to 90 minutes. Some tests are finished in one time period. For other tests, you may have to receive a radioactive substance and return at a later time. You may also have to return in several days for more pictures. You will be told more about this at your test.

Preparation

Most of the tests do not need special preparation. You may eat or drink before the test, unless your doctor tells you differently. See below:

- Gallbladder test
Nothing to eat or drink for 4 hours before the test.
- Stomach or bowel test
Nothing to eat or drink for 12 hours before the test.
- Kidney test
Drink plenty of water before the test.



**Licking Memorial
Health Systems**

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- Thyroid test
Need to be off thyroid medication for 4 to 6 weeks.
- Bone scan
No preparation. After an injection, the patient will return 3 hours later for the test.
- Other: _____

Your Role

1. You will need to lay as still as you can for the test. This will help get the best pictures.
2. If you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant, be sure to let your doctor know before the test begins.

Registration

Please report directly to the Radiology Department on the first floor of LMH. Come to this area 20 minutes before your scheduled test time.

- Bone scan: If you are having a bone scan, please come 3 ½ hours before your scheduled test time. You will receive an injection at this time. You can then leave and return in 3 hours for the test.

During a Nuclear Medicine Test

- You will be given a radioactive substance called a radiopharmaceutical. It can be injected, swallowed, or inhaled. Different substances are used to study different parts of the body.
- There is not usually a reaction to the substance.
- The substance travels through your body, giving off gamma rays (invisible radiation). The gamma rays show the location of the substance in the body.
- Special equipment finds the gamma rays and records them as flashes of light. These are used to create pictures of the part of the body being studied.

After the Test

You may return to your normal routine. There are no side effects to the radioactive substance. It will leave your body through your urine and stool.

Finding Out the Results

The radiologist will study the test and give the findings to your doctor. The doctor will talk to you about the results.

Reminder

- If you have any questions about your test, please call (740) 348-4731.
- Go to the Radiology Department on the first floor, 15 minutes before your test. For a bone scan, arrive 3 ½ hours before your test.

Other Special Instructions