

Preparing for your procedure:

- Each specific test may require a different type of preparation, so please check with your physician or the Medical Imaging Center at Culpeper Regional Hospital.
- Usually you may wear your own clothes during procedures. Do not wear jewelry or metallic objects.
- Please speak with your physician prior to the procedure, if:
 - There is a possibility that you are pregnant.
 - You have an allergy to any medicine or contrast medium.
 - You are claustrophobic.
- Be aware that there is a waiting period after the chemical compound is given, usually two to three hours, before the scan(s).
- Your physician should explain the time periods that your specific scan will require. For instance, thyroid testing requires scanning four hours after the chemical compound is administered and again after 24 hours. The gallium and indium white blood cell procedures require scans for three consecutive days, one hour each time.
- If you have recent x-rays that pertain to your problem, please bring them so the radiologist may use them for comparison.

Your Nuclear Medicine Scan is scheduled:

Date _____

Time _____

Please arrive 15 minutes before your appointment to register in the Medical Imaging Center.

Bring your insurance information, including the insurance company policy number, to the registrar. Please bring your physician order.

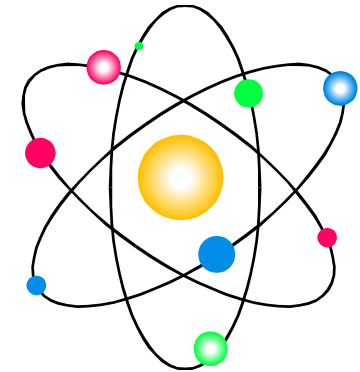
The time you will need for your scan(s) varies by specific procedure, and you should be prepared for possible delay in case of unexpected emergency procedures, which may occur in the hospital and require attention within the Medical Imaging Center.

You will receive two bills for your scan:

1. From Culpeper Regional Hospital.
2. From the radiologist that interprets your exam film.

If you need to change the time or cancel your appointment, please call **(540) 829-8854 or (540) 829-8855** at a minimum of 12 hours prior to your appointment time.

Nuclear Medicine



Medical Imaging Center
Culpeper Regional Hospital
501 Sunset Lane
Culpeper, VA 22701

What is Nuclear Medicine?

Nuclear medicine is a diagnostic field of radiology that provides information about how organs of the body are functioning as well as showing the anatomy of organs. These tests are commonly called scans. Exams such as x-rays, CT Scans or MRIs are generally limited to showing the organ and any structural changes. Nuclear Medicine scans are important because they can provide information about how an organ is functioning. A chemical compound that contains a small amount of radioactive substance is administered by injection into a vein, by mouth as a capsule, or by breathing in a gas. The chemical compound is allowed to move through the body and is scanned using a gamma camera, which 'sees' the chemical compound. The gamma camera does not produce radiation; it detects the radioactive compound in your body.

Allergic reactions to the chemical compounds used in Nuclear Medicine are extremely rare. The scans are considered safe. The tiny amount of radioactive material in your body will disintegrate back to normal levels or be discharged through your urine within 12-36 hours.

What to expect during the procedure:

A radiological technologist, who is trained in Nuclear Medicine imaging procedures, will perform your scan.

- If there is a possibility that you are pregnant, be sure to inform your technologist before the procedure begins.
- If you are allergic to any medication and/or contrast media, please inform your technologist before the procedure begins.
- You will be given the chemical compound by injection, gas or capsule, depending on the specific procedure. There is a waiting time after receiving the compound to allow the body to absorb it. The waiting time varies depending on your body, the chemical compound used, and the specific scan needed and can be up to four hours.
- After the waiting period, you will be positioned on a table, and the gamma camera will be close to your body. Please discuss any concerns you have about claustrophobia with your doctor prior to scheduling the test.
- Several scans may be taken. You can breathe normally, but it will be important for you to hold still.

And after the Nuclear Medicine Scan?

The tiny amount of radioactive material disintegrates to background radiation levels (normal everyday exposure that we all have) within 12-36 hours.

Drink plenty of fluids following your procedure to eliminate the compound from your body. The chemical compound you receive will not cause drowsiness, nausea nor impair your driving ability.

A board-certified radiologist will interpret your scans. The report will be sent to your physician who will discuss the results with you.

For Your Health

We respect your decision to do this procedure to improve or maintain your good health. Our goal is to make this as easy and comfortable as possible.

We invite your questions before and during the procedure and hope you will take a few minutes to complete our Outpatient Comment Card before you leave. Your comments will help CRH to continue to improve this important service.