

Nuclear Medicine – Your Role in Patient Safety

Nuclear Medicine

Nuclear Medicine examinations use small amounts of radioactive material to diagnose and determine severity or treatment of diseases. Depending on the type of scan you have, the radioactive material is either injected, swallowed or inhaled (as a gas)

The area of interest is then scanned by a Nuclear Medicine Technologist on a special camera which produces the images and information.

Nuclear Medicine Safety

Special care is taken during the scan to use the lowest radiation dose possible. State-of-the-art imaging systems are used. Females between the ages of 10 and 55 years are asked if there is any possibility of pregnancy or if they are breast feeding, before having a nuclear medicine examination.

Nuclear Medicine and Pregnancy

A decision to undergo a Nuclear Medicine examination if you are pregnant will be made very carefully by your physician and the staff in consultation with you.

Medications

You should never stop taking any prescribed medications, unless you are advised by your physician or health care provider responsible for your care.

Preparation

For some examinations, you may be asked to follow some instructions to prepare for the test. You will be advised of any instructions to be followed before your procedure.

Post Procedure

If any special instructions are needed after your nuclear medicine scan, you will be informed by the technologist, before you leave the department.

Let us Know if You Are:

- Are anxious about your ultrasound examination
- Have any questions or concerns about pregnancy
- Have any allergies, recent illnesses or other medical conditions
- Unable to perform any of the instructions required for the test, before your appointment.

Safety Tips

- Ensure you inform the staff of any slip, trip or falls you may have had within the last six months
- Bring any mobility aide you use at home with you to assist in your examinations (canes, walkers, etc.)
- Help promote infection control in the hospital by using the hand sanitizer, from the stations or dispensers provided

Self-Screen

Please reschedule your appointment if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Trouble Breathing

To ensure your safety, please inform staff if you are uncomfortable or need assistance.

If you have any questions, please contact the Diagnostic Imaging Department at 416-469-6580 ext. 6067.