

## Further information and help

If you have any questions regarding your appointment time or the examination your doctor/ healthcare professional has asked for, please contact the Radiology Department.

### Radiology Department

Tel: 01851 708224

Open: Monday-Friday from 8.30am-5pm

### Patient Transport

Patient transport is available, if required. To book, telephone the contact number in your appointment letter.

Please note that if you are arriving by car, please arrive ahead of time as parking is often scarce and it may take some time to find a parking space.

## We are listening - how did we do?

We welcome your feedback, as it helps us evaluate the services we provide. If you would like to tell us about your experience:

- speak to a member of staff
- visit our website [www.wihb.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.wihb.scot.nhs.uk) or share your story at: [www.careopinion.org.uk](http://www.careopinion.org.uk) or tel. 0800 122 31 35
- tel. 01851 704704 (ext 2236) Monday-Friday between 10am-4pm.



Bòrd SSN nan Eilean Siar  
NHS Western Isles

Radiology Department

# CT Scan



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Written by: Radiology Department, Western Isles Hospital

### Disclaimer

The content of this leaflet is intended to augment, not replace, information provided by your clinician. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. Reading this information does not create or replace a doctor-patient relationship or consultation. If required, please contact your doctor or other health care provider to assist you to interpret any of this information, or in applying the information to your individual needs.

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Patient information leaflet

## Having a CT scan

A Computed Tomography (CT) scan takes pictures of the inside of your body using x-rays.

The CT scanner looks like a large donut shape, with a bed that moves in and out of it.

For some CT scans patients can be given X-ray contrast dye, this can often require you to be cannulated (where a tiny tube is placed inside a vein to provide venous access).

The people performing the CT scan are called Radiographers.

## Before your CT scan

Your CT scan appointment letter will provide you with the date and time of your appointment.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Radiology Department.

## When you arrive at Radiology

Your scan will take place in the Radiology department, or otherwise often called the 'X-ray department'.

On arrival, give your appointment letter to the staff member at the reception desk.

They will ask you to take a seat in the waiting room and they will let the Radiographer know you have arrived.

## What to expect at your CT scan

The Radiographer will collect you from the waiting room.

You may be asked to remove some of your clothes and jewellery.

If you are needed to change clothing for your CT scan, they will lead you to a changing cubicle to put on a hospital gown.

The Radiographer will ask you to confirm your name, date of birth and address to ensure the correct patient is being scanned.

When ready, the Radiographer will take you into the CT Scanning Room. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask at any time.

The radiographer will ask you to sit or lie down on the scanner and will explain the examination to you.

If you require x-ray contrast dye for your CT scan, you may be asked some safety questions. If you are having the contrast dye this is usually given by injection and the radiographer will put a cannula in a vein in your arm.

You will then be moved into the CT scanner for your scan.

Please note that every CT scan requires different instructions, but the Radiographer will explain what you have to do and when.

## How long does it take?

CT scan appointments that **do not** require an injection of contrast dye usually take between 5 and 10 minutes.

CT scan appointments where an injection of contrast dye **has been** given are 30 minutes long.

Please remember that the Radiology Department deals with emergencies as well as booked patients, and sometimes appointment delays are unavoidable. However, if you wait longer than 20 minutes without an explanation, then please inform a member of staff.

## When will I get my results?

The Radiologist will send a copy of your results back to the GP/healthcare professional who referred you for the CT scan. They will then contact you with the results.

## Are there risks of radiation?

The amount of x-ray radiation received is minimal and will not harm you. X-ray imaging radiation is on average equivalent to what we all receive from natural background radiation over a period of 5-10 days.

The risk of radiation is higher for unborn children and therefore women of child-bearing age (between 12-55 years) may be asked about their menstrual history and pregnancy status.

Please note that you are assured that all safeguards to minimise radiation are taken.