

Are there risks of radiation?

The amount of x-ray radiation received from a regular x-ray is small and will not harm you.

X-ray imaging radiation is on average equivalent to what we all receive from the atmosphere over a period of 2-3 days, dependant on what body part is imaged.

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.

Getting to your appointment

Parking

There is free parking at the hospital. Please allow plenty of time to find a parking space as spaces are often limited. There is disabled parking close to the main building.

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

Inside Western Isles Hospital

The X-ray Suite is located in the Radiology Department on the ground floor of Western Isles Hospital.

- From the main reception follow the left corridor past the lifts.
- Take the first right, then the first left.
- Walk down the corridor until you reach the double doors on your left which lead you into the Radiology Department, and report to the reception desk.

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

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 or share your story at: www.careopinion.org.uk or tel. 0800 122 31 35
- tel. 01851 704704 (ext 2236) Monday-Friday between 10am-4pm.

Version: 2 Review Date: April 2027
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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Bòrd SSN nan Eilean Siar
NHS Western Isles

Radiology Department

X-ray Examination



Patient information leaflet

Having an X-ray

An x-ray is an image of a body part. X-ray examinations use electromagnetic radiation to make images of your bones, teeth and internal organs.

It is a fast, easy and painless examination that allows doctors to quickly diagnose conditions like broken bones or even pneumonia.

Before the examination

Your x-ray appointment letter will provide you with the date and time of your appointment in the Radiology Department, often called the "X-ray Department".

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

Preparing for your X-ray

Medicines

Please continue to take any prescribed medicine.

Dress

Please wear clothes with as little metal as possible. For example, a soft tracksuit without zips, underwear without clips or underwire. We can also provide a gown, and offer changing cubicles, with facilities for disabled people.

Valuables

If possible, please leave all your valuables at home. The changing rooms can be locked, but we cannot accept responsibility for anything that is lost.

Language difficulties

If you need to an interpreter, please phone

01851 708224 as soon as you get your appointment.

Pregnancy

The risk from radiation exposure is higher for unborn children; therefore, women of childbearing age (12-55) may be asked about their menstrual history and pregnancy status.

The booking team may have already been in contact to determine your pregnancy status before booking the appointment. However, if there is a chance that you may be pregnant, please phone our receptionist **before** your appointment date on 01851 708224.

When you arrive at Radiology

We advise that you attend 5-10 minutes before the time given in your appointment letter.

On arrival, please report to the receptionist in the Radiology Department and give them your appointment letter. They will ask you to take a seat in the waiting room and let the Radiographer know you have arrived.

The Radiographer will then collect you from the waiting room and:

- check your name, date of birth and address
- confirm the area we are going to x-ray
- explain the procedure
- allow you time to change if you need to.

At your examination

The radiographer will explain the examination to you and ask you to either sit or stand for the x-ray.

You will be positioned for the examination. This may involve you standing, sitting or lying down on a table.

You will be asked to stay still and may be required to hold your breath for a few seconds. X-rays will then be taken of the area requested by the referring health professional.

With your consent, you can have a parent/guardian or carer with you when having your x-ray. They will stand behind the glass screen with the Radiographer.

How long does it take?

You should expect to be in the Department for about 15 minutes.

The images will be checked to make sure we have all the information we need. You will be told when you may leave the department.

Your x-rays will be reported by an expert, and the report will be sent to the health professional who asked for the examination.

We store your images for future reference

When will I get my results?

Your results will be sent to your doctor or to the health professional who asked for the examination. You may be sent a follow-up appointment to discuss your results with them.

Please do not contact the Radiology Department for the results.