

Part of your CT scan requires an injection of x-ray dye (contrast media). **To ensure that it is safe for you to have this we need to admit you to a ward in the Radiology Department for the day of your scan.**

You will be in the Radiology Department for 6 – 8 hours.

This information sheet tells you why we would like to do this.

Contrast media is a colourless liquid injected through a drip placed in a vein, usually in your arm or hand. It is used to highlight the soft tissue and blood vessels in your body. When the contrast is injected it circulates around your body in the blood stream and is removed by your kidneys.

For patients whose kidneys do not function normally there is a small risk that their kidney function could be made worse by the injection of contrast.

Being well hydrated helps to minimise this risk and to ensure that you are well hydrated before and after your scan we would like to give you some fluids (saline solution) through a drip in your arm - this is called IV hydration.

To enable us to give you the fluids you need to be admitted to the Interventional Recovery Ward in the Radiology Department. You will need to come to the ward in the morning and your scan will be booked for early afternoon.

Please read your appointment letter for information on what time you need to come to Radiology, when your CT scan is booked and how

to prepare for your scan.

Diabetic patients – please refer to the advice at the end of this information sheet.

What happens on the day of the CT scan?

Please report to the reception desk in the Radiology Department, you will be directed to the Interventional Recovery Ward.

A nurse will go through a checklist with you, prepare you for the procedure and commence giving the saline solution through a drip. A doctor will talk to you about why you need the contrast media injection and the risks and benefits of having it. It is important that you ask questions if you have any.

If you wish to continue with the CT you will be asked to sign a consent form. This means that you have agreed to have the injection of contrast media and that you understand the risks and why it is needed.

What happens after the procedure?

After the scan you will return to the ward where you will need to drink 500 mls of water, if you are unable to do this the nurse will continue to give you fluids through the drip in your arm.

Once you have had all the fluids, the drip will be removed and you will be discharged home.

You are able to drive yourself home after the procedure and resume your normal activities.

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Some patients will be asked to have a follow-up blood test to check their kidney function. If this applies to you it will be discussed with you before you are discharged.

Are there any alternatives to having the contrast media?

CT scans can be done without using the injection of the contrast media but this reduces the amount of information that can be gained from the scan.

In some circumstances different imaging procedures can be used such as an MRI or Ultrasound scan, but your doctor has decided that a CT scan is the best procedure for you.

Contact details

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this information please contact your referring doctor or GP

Contact us

Phone: (04) 806 2193

Hours: 8am-4pm, Monday to Friday

Fax: (04) 806 0301

Email: radiology.admin@ccdhb.org.nz

On the day before your scan	
Read your appointment letter carefully and ensure you understand the preparation instructions for your scan Ensure you know what time to arrive in the Radiology Department	
On the day of the CT scan	
Report to the reception desk in the Radiology Department at the appointed time. Allow at least 6 hours for the total time you will be with us	
Diabetic patients	You may have a light breakfast before 9 am
After the CT Scan	
Remember to get a follow-up blood test (if instructed so during discharge)	