

Keeping you and your family safe during your visit:

Wear your hospital ID bracelet while you are at the hospital.

Let us know if you:

- Have had a fall in the last year.
- Require a cane, walker, crutch or wheelchair.
- Feel confused, dizzy or might lose your balance.

We are happy to provide any assistance you need.

Use hand sanitizer from the stations provided to help promote infection control.

Help us create a barrier free environment by identifying any entry, exit or services we provide, that may limit your accessibility.

Ask for our free interpretation services or free captioning service apps available to use on your smartphone if you are deaf, deafened or hard of hearing.

We take pride in providing equal care for all. With your help, we can improve our service and provide a safer healthcare environment. During your visit:

- Let us know how we are doing.
- Tell us if we can provide better care for you.
- Ask us questions about anything you don't understand.

Form 300368 (05/2023)

Birchmount hospital

3030 Birchmount Road
Scarborough, ON M1W 3W3
416-495-2400

Centenary hospital

2867 Ellesmere Road
Scarborough, ON M1E 4B9
416-284-8131

General hospital

3050 Lawrence Avenue East
Scarborough, ON M1P 2V5
416-438-2911



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Nuclear Medicine

A guide for patients and families



What is Nuclear Medicine?

Nuclear Medicine is a specialty that uses very small amounts of radioactive material to diagnose and treat disease. These radioactive materials (or tracers), are attracted to specific organs in the body or tissues by the nature of their chemical makeup.



The tracers emit energy in the form of ionizing radiation which is detectable by special equipment known as a Gamma camera.

What should I expect?

Depending on the type of examination prescribed, the tracer is either injected into your vein or tissue, swallowed or inhaled (as a gas).

You will be positioned under or in front of the camera and asked to keep still.

The camera captures information from the tracers and produces images which provide anatomical and functional detail of the body part being examined.

Having a Nuclear Medicine examination does expose you to ionizing radiation, but the doses used follow the 'As Low As Reasonably Achievable' principle and limited to only what is needed.

Examinations can be performed on pregnant women and children. This decision is made carefully with the benefits and risks of the examination reviewed before the test is performed.

Let us know if you are pregnant, think you might be pregnant or are breastfeeding, before your appointment.

How do I prepare for a Nuclear Medicine examination?

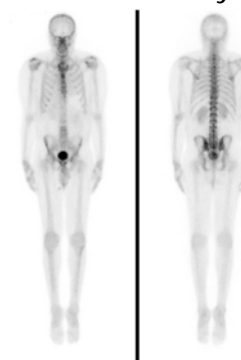
Most Nuclear Medicine procedures do not require any preparation, but some tests require the patient to fast or drink extra fluids or to stop certain medications.

You will be advised if any specific instructions are needed by our booking department.

Let us know if you are taking any medication, vitamins or herbal supplements, before your appointment.

How long does a Nuclear Medicine examination take?

Generally, it takes between 30 - 60 minutes to perform a scan, not including the time it takes the tracer to absorb into the body. In some cases, absorbing the tracer can take an extra 2-3 hours before we can scan you. Some involve scanning over a multiple number of days.



The images are interpreted by one of our Radiologists (Imaging specialists) or Cardiologists and the results sent to your physician.

Let us know if you:

- Have any allergies
- If you are unable to perform any of the instructions required for the examination, before your appointment.
- Have any questions about your Nuclear Medicine examination.