

## How to contact us?

### Toll-free booking line

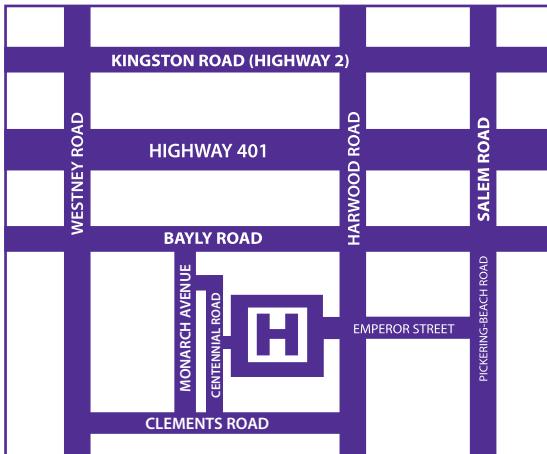
1-866-752-6989 or 416-281-7299

### Toll-free fax line

1-866-752-6990 or 416-281-7483

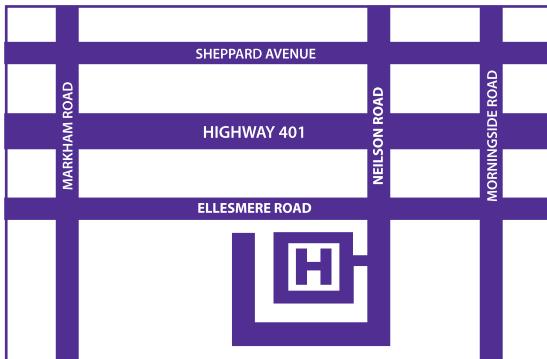
### Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering

580 Harwood Avenue, Ajax  
905-683-2320



### Rouge Valley Centenary

2867 Ellesmere Road, Toronto  
416-284-8131 ext. 4135



Our mission at **Rouge Valley Health System** is to provide the best health care experience for our patients and their families.

Our vision is to be  
**the best at what we do.**

Our hospital campuses:

#### Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering

580 Harwood Avenue  
Ajax, ON L1S 2J4  
905-683-2320

#### Rouge Valley Centenary

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

# Nuclear Medicine



## Diagnostic Imaging



The best at what we do.

[www.rougevalley.ca](http://www.rougevalley.ca)

**Nuclear medicine** is the medical specialty that uses very small amounts of radioactive material to diagnose and treat disease. These materials—or *tracers*—are substances that are attracted to specific organs or tissues by the nature of their chemical makeup.

Tracers emit energy in the form of radiation, which is detectable by highly-specialized equipment known as gamma cameras or scintillation cameras. The cameras then produce images, which provide us with anatomical and functional detail of the body part being targeted. We use these images to identify if there are any problems we may need to look after.

## Are nuclear medicine tests safe?

Yes, nuclear medicine tests are very safe. The tracer used and radiation dose given are carefully selected to ensure the minimum radiation exposure to the patient, while ensuring the accuracy of the test.

## What is a radiopharmaceutical or tracer?

A *radiopharmaceutical* or tracer is a specially-designed compound that is bound to radioactive material. Tracers are designed to 1) act like natural products in the body, allowing nuclear medicine tests to look at how the body is working, and 2) enable us to look at very specific organ functions.



One of the two gamma cameras used for nuclear medicine at our Rouge Valley Centenary hospital campus.

## Are there radiation hazards for nuclear medicine patients?

Nuclear medicine procedures are very safe. A patient only receives an extremely small amount of tracer—just enough to provide sufficient diagnostic information. The patient dose, in many cases, is equal to or less than common x-ray procedures. Most tracers pass quickly from the body through normal bodily functions. Patients are encouraged to drink additional fluids, as this will help in eliminating the tracer more quickly.

## Who performs a nuclear medicine test?

Your test will be performed by a Certified Medical Radiation Technologist, who is specially-trained in the theory and practice of nuclear medicine.

## How long does a nuclear medicine procedure take?

The length of time for a nuclear medicine procedure depends on the type you are having.

## What happens after the test?

Once the test is complete, you are free to resume your normal activities. If you have any questions about taking your medications you should consult your doctor.