NHS
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Information for patients and carers

CT Scan

This leaflet explains the process of having a CT scan, including the benefits and risks. It also provides information on what to expect when you come to hospital.

If you have any further questions please speak to the doctor, radiographer or nurse.

What is a CT scan?

CT stands for Computed Tomography.

A Computerised Tomography (CT) scan uses x-rays and a computer to create detailed images of the inside of your body.

Why should I have a CT scan?

A CT scan can help your doctor to find the cause of your problem and the best treatment options for you.

Are there any alternatives?

Your doctor feels that a CT scan is the best option for you; a standard x-ray will not provide the same level of detail.

Please inform us before you attend:

- If you are or think you may be pregnant
- If you weigh over 30 stone/190 kilograms
- If you have problems standing or need a hoist to transfer
- **If you require an interpreter – please inform us as soon as you receive your appointment letter, and we will arrange an official interpreter for you.**

Can you bring a relative or friend with you?

A relative or friend can accompany you to the hospital, but they will usually not be allowed into the room when you have your examination.

Please note that as we have limited seating and do not have childcare facilities, you are advised not to bring small children with you to your appointment.

How long does it take?

You should plan to be in the CT department for up to 1 hour, which will include any preparation time needed for your scan. The scan itself takes between 10 and 20 minutes.

We will try to keep to your appointment time but occasionally we are required to scan patients urgently at short notice. This means your scan could be delayed, but we will let you know if this is the case**.**

Preparation for the scan

If you are taking any medicines, please continue to take these as usual unless you have been told otherwise by your doctor.

What happens when I arrive for the CT scan?

When you arrive in the CT department, please book in at the reception desk and take a seat in the waiting area.
You may be asked to drink water prior to your scan.
Metal fastenings like zips, poppers and hooks and eyes will show up on the scan so we may ask you to change into a hospital gown in the changing rooms before going into the examination room.

What happens during the CT scan?



Your CT scan will be undertaken by a specially trained radiographer.

The scanning machine is like a large ring doughnut similar to this photograph.

The radiographer will help you to get into the correct position on the scanner bed. Once you are positioned, the radiographer will leave the room, but you will be able to talk to them through an intercom, and they will be able to see you through a glass window. You may be asked to follow specific breathing instructions during the scan. This will only be for a very short time.

Once the scans have been taken the radiographer will check them briefly to ensure that they are of sufficient quality to be able to make a diagnosis. When this is done you will be able to get off the scanner bed and leave the scanning room. Whilst the radiographer can reassure you that the appropriate images have been obtained, they will not be able to give you the results.

Will you feel any pain?

You cannot feel x-rays and the procedure itself is painless. It is important for you to keep still. If you find it uncomfortable to lie still, then please tell the radiographer.

After the scan

In most cases, as soon as the scan is finished you can go home, or back to the ward if you are staying in hospital.

Are there any risks?

As with x-rays, CT scans use radiation. The level of radiation used is very small and the benefits of the scan are thought to outweigh the risk. There are some small risks involved with the radiation received during a CT scan, but only the minimum amount of radiation is used to produce the images required. We use the smallest dose possible, in line with national regulations. This allows us to make an accurate diagnosis to help plan your care.

Your clinician has determined that the benefits of having the CT examination far outweigh the radiation dose you will receive.

When will I receive the examination results?

Following your CT examination, the radiologist will review the scans and write a formal report of the results. This will be sent to the clinician who referred you for this examination.

During your examination the radiographer will advise you on how you will receive these results. Unfortunately, you will not receive any results at the time of your examination.

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact CT appointments on **01257 247793 / 01257 247785.**
Lines are open 8.30am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays).

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk
www.nhs.uk
www.accessable.co.uk
www.patient.co.uk
www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware
https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/
www.gov.uk/government/publications/ionising-radiation-from-medical-imaging-examinations-safety-advice/exposure-to-ionising-radiation-from-medical-imaging-safety-advice
www.nhs.uk/conditions/CT-Scan/

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All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is a smoke-free site. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on any of our premises, either inside or outside the buildings. Our staff will ask you about your smoking status when you come to hospital and will offer you support and advice about stopping smoking this will include Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal and the opportunity to speak to a nurse or advisor from the specialist Tobacco and Alcohol Care Team.

If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**

Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.
This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.

Our patient information group review our leaflets regularly, if you feel you would like to feedback on this information or to join our reading group please contact us on email address:
patientexperienceandinvolvem@LTHTR.nhs.uk

Department: Radiology/CT
Division: Diagnostics and Clinical Support
Production date: September 2026
Review date: September 2029
JR 1541 v1