

What to bring to your appointment

- OHIP card
- Requisition (if required)
- Any medical examination reports associated with your scheduled appointment
- Medication list with dosage information
- Translator (if required)

Location

Diagnostic Services is located on the second floor of Building B at Markham Stouffville Hospital.

Where to park

Parking is available in Visitor's Parking Lot 1 – Main Entrance/Link Lobby.

Lot 1 is located on Church Street between Ninth Line and Bur Oak and can be accessed by the entrance off of Butternut Lane.

Where to go on the day of your appointment

Please arrive 30 minutes before your appointment. You must register by one of the following:

1. Link Lobby Registration located 2nd Floor, Building B
2. Phone registration at 905-472-7393
3. Kiosk registration is located in the main lobby

Your appointment is scheduled for:

Date: _____

Time: _____

If you are feeling unwell, have a high temperature, cough or sore throat on or before the day of your appointment, please reschedule your appointment.

To reschedule or cancel your appointment, call the Scheduling Office at 905-472-7020.



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Nuclear

Patient Information



Nuclear Medicine

What is nuclear medicine?

Nuclear medicine is a diagnostic imaging specialty that assesses the condition of organ systems or body functions.

During the exam a safe, small amount of a radioactive tracer (called a radiopharmaceutical) is given to the patient and special cameras are used to take pictures of your body.

Some of the most frequent nuclear medicine scans are done to assess the heart, bones, thyroid gland, and to evaluate the extent of some infections in the body. Nuclear medicine scans may also be used to provide information to your doctor about staging of some cancers and response to treatments.

What to expect before your test

Preparation varies depending on the Nuclear medicine test or scan that you are having.

Please check our website for specific test instructions to see if preparation such as fasting, avoiding caffeine products, or stopping certain medications are required.

Please do not wear jewelry or perfume on the day of your test.

What to expect during your test

A medical radiation technologist specialized in nuclear medicine will interview you and start your procedure by administering the appropriate radioactive tracer to you.

Most tracers are given by injection into a vein in your arm or through an intravenous line (IV), others are ingested or inhaled.

For some nuclear medicine procedures the imaging may begin right away and for other types of scans there may be a delay of varying times.

What to expect after your test

You may resume normal activities immediately, unless the physician or technologist tells you otherwise. We also suggest that you increase your fluids over the next day to help eliminate any residual tracer in your body.

In some cases the radiologists may find it useful to have additional images or X-rays completed, to help with the final interpretation of the diagnostic report.

Your test will be reviewed by a radiologist (or other specialist like a cardiologist) and a report will be sent to your doctor. Please contact your doctor's office for your test results (usually one to three business days or accessible through online tools such as PocketHealth, Patient Connect, etc.

FAQS

1. I have travel plans. Can I still proceed with the nuclear medicine procedure?

Please consult with the technologist before your test. International security measures have increased and radiation detectors have commonly been installed at airports, international borders, and some major tourist attractions and landmarks. Travelling with supportive documentation declaring your recent nuclear medicine test is advised and may help to avoid potentially lengthy delays.

2. I am breastfeeding, pregnant, or may be pregnant. Can I still proceed with my nuclear medicine procedure?

Please consult with your doctor or contact our department. If you are breastfeeding, there may be special precautions required before starting your nuclear medicine exam.

3. I have had other imaging exams recently, will this cause any problems?

Barium and contrast may "mask" or "block" our ability to perform certain types of nuclear medicine exams so we may have to delay your appointment.

If you have had recent X-rays or other imaging exams in the same area of interest, please bring the report with you on the day of your nuclear medicine appointment.