

## Patient information

# Information about your child's MAG3 scan

### What is a nuclear medicine scan?

Nuclear medicine involves the use of small amounts of radioactive materials (or tracers) to help diagnose and treat a variety of diseases. Nuclear medicine determines the cause of the medical problem based on the function of the organ, tissue or bone.

The scanner is not a tunnel.

### What is a MAG3 scan

A MAG3 scan is used to assess the structure and location of the kidneys or it can also show any blockages or obstructions in the kidneys that might affect how well they are working.

### About your child's MAG3 scan

Please attend the **Children's Outpatients Department 1 HOUR BEFORE** the scan appointment time.

In a nuclear medicine test, the radioactive material is introduced into the body by a cannula (needle) in the arm. A cannula will be put in place by a paediatric nurse. Ametop® gel may be used to numb the area.

Very young children may be suitable for sedation; you will have been contacted prior to this appointment if this is necessary. Children having sedation must attend the F1 Rainbow Ward one hour before their scan.

Please bring a bottle of drink and a treat for your child to eat. A special toy, dummy or comforter may also be helpful for very young children.

Your child may eat and drink normally.

It is extremely important that your child has plenty of water to drink before the scan to give a good result.

A small amount of radioactive material and diuretic will be administered through the cannula and the scan will start immediately. Your child will then be required to lie very still for approximately 30 minutes.

The diuretic involved in this scan may make it necessary to urinate more frequently.

It is very important that your child drinks plenty for the rest of the day to avoid becoming slightly dehydrated and to flush the diuretic and radioactive material from their body.

There are no side effects to this scan.

**Anxiety:** If your child is likely to be anxious, shy of strangers or has bad memories of a previous visit then a dose of medicine\* two hours before the appointment time can be very helpful. This can be prescribed in clinic or via your GP.

\*NB for GP: Diazepam liquid 0.2mg/kg orally

**Sedation:** If your child is to have sedation (usually between six months and four years of age), they may sleep better with sedation if put to bed late, woken early in the morning, or denied a morning nap.

The amount of radioactive material used in children is very small (scaled dose in accordance to body weight) and will quickly start to lose its activity. Your child will only be radioactive for a short time and the majority will have left the child's body by later in the day. However, we advise that the child does not have prolonged contact with pregnant ladies and young children for the rest of that day.

The doctor who asked for this test will likely have discussed it with you, but if you still have any queries please phone their secretary who will ask the Consultant to ring you back.

## **When will you get the results?**

The scan / images will be examined after your visit and a written report on the findings sent to your referring doctor which is normally available in 14 days.

## **Cancellations**

If you cannot, for any reason, keep this appointment then please phone **01284 713378** to talk to our appointment team. This will help us keep our waiting lists as short as possible.

## **Valuables**

The hospital is not responsible for any lost or stolen valuables. Please leave all jewellery at home. It is helpful if you dress your child in clothes without zips, buttons etc. Their pockets will need to be empty.

You are welcome to bring items with you to amuse your child (electronic devices, toys etc). However, you will be responsible for their safekeeping; staff are unable to secure these items for you.

## **Hospital transport**

Transport has **not** been booked. If you are eligible for transport or have any queries regarding transport eligibility, please contact the E-zec booking office on **0300 999 6666**.

## **Car parking**

Car parking for patients / visitors is available in car park A at the front of the hospital (the first car park to the right as you enter the site), and car park D at the rear of the site near the MRI and Macmillan Units.

West Suffolk Hospital operates a number plate recognition system for all vehicles entering the site. When ready to leave, please visit one of the pay stations on site. Enter your vehicle registration number and pay the required fee. The exit barriers will recognise the vehicle registration and that the parking has been paid for, and will open automatically. Please check the hospital website ([www.wsh.nhs.uk](http://www.wsh.nhs.uk)) for further information on car parking, fees, exemptions and penalties.

**Please allow plenty of time to park before your appointment, as the car parks are continuously busy throughout the day.**

## Nuclear medicine, pregnancy and breastfeeding

Because of the potential risks to an unborn child we need to know, for all examinations, if there is any possibility of a patient or anybody accompanying the patient being pregnant.

All female patients between the ages of 12 years and 54 years of age will be asked if there is the possibility of pregnancy.

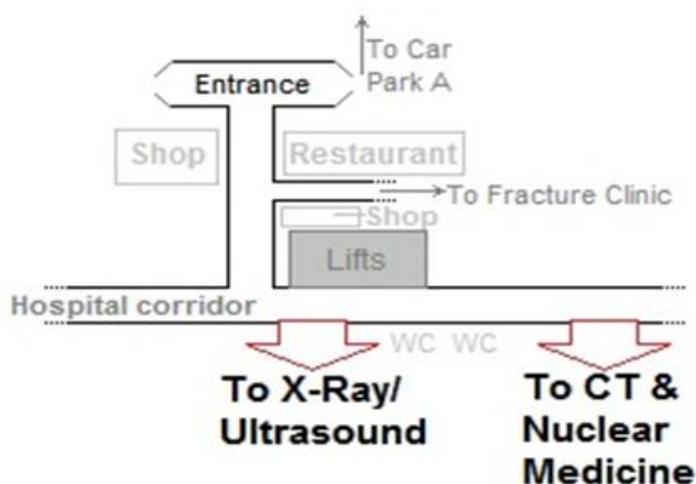
Discussions will be carried out in private and in confidence.

Patients below the age of 16 years may indicate whether or not they wish parents to be in attendance.

**It is not advisable to bring additional children with you for this appointment as legally staff cannot look after them.**

For some examinations breast feeding may need to be temporarily interrupted. Please contact the Nuclear Medicine department for advice if you are currently breast feeding.

## Directions to the Nuclear Medicine Suite



## How safe is my nuclear medicine examination

You are visiting our nuclear medicine department as your child has been referred by a healthcare professional. As radiographers, we have a duty to inform you about the radiation involved and the associated risks:

Your child's procedure involves the administration of a small amount of radioactivity for diagnosis or treatment. While these procedures are generally considered as "safe", as with anything in life there is a small risk.

## What is the risk?

Statistically, the risk is that any amount of radiation, however small, may induce a change in body cells resulting in a cancer developing. Your child's lifetime risk on average of developing a cancer is approximately one in two.

*([Cancer Research UK .org](http://CancerResearchUK.org))*

The additional risk from this test is that the radiation may induce a cancer in 1 in 20,000 patients. *(BMJ 2004 Oct 9 PMC 521582)*

Nuclear medicine scans expose you to a similar amount of additional radiation as you would get from visiting Cornwall or Aberdeen for about nine months.

Your child's scan has been requested by a clinician who has determined that the benefit of the scan exceeds the risk. If you have any concerns about the radiation risks please feel free to discuss these with the radiographer **before** the injection.

If having a diagnostic test, the level of radiation is low and poses a very tiny risk.

## Data protection information

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust will manage your information in line with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679. The information you provide will be retained for the purposes of your healthcare. The information will be retained in line with the *NHS Records Management Code of Practice for Health & Social Care*.

You have rights in relation to the way we process your information. If you no longer want us to use your information for the purposes specified above; if you want to request to have your information erased or rectified, please contact the Information Governance team on 01284 712781.

We will review all requests in relation to your rights under GDPR, along with our responsibilities for record keeping.

Images may be used for research purposes as well as teaching. Patients must inform a member of staff know if they do not consent to this.

As part of a shared service agreement with other NHS organisations, your radiology images and records may be shared with these other organisations as part of determining and providing your care. If you would like to know more about the extent of this sharing, or you wish us not to share at all with another organisation, or have any

other concerns about it, please contact a member of staff.

*If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (the new name for DisabledGo)*  
<https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust>



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