Patient information

Information about your Inpatient CT scan.

Computerised Tomography (CT) uses x-rays to obtain images which will help the doctors with your diagnosis and treatment.

You will be collected from your ward by a porter and taken to the CT department which is within the Radiology (x-ray) department.

You will meet the CT receptionist and then taken into the scanning room by a radiographer who will explain the procedure to you and answer any questions you may have.

During the scan you will lie on the CT scanner bed. The bed moves through the 'hole' of the CT scanner as the scans are taken. The scanner is not a tunnel. You will be able to see out of either side of the scanner.

The radiographer will perform the scan and will be able to see and speak to you via an intercom.

Some scans may require you to hold your breath during the scan. This will only be a few seconds.

You may be given an injection of contrast (x-ray dye) as part of the scan. The radiographer will discuss this with you before the scan. It is important to drink plenty of fluids for 24 hours after the scan.

When the scan is finished you will be taken back to the ward by the porters. The Radiologist (X-ray Doctor) will review the scan and send a report back to the doctor looking after you on the ward. The ward doctor will then be able to discuss the results with you.

Benefits of a CT scan

CT scans can provide detailed views of lots of different types of tissues and organs within the body including lungs, bone, soft tissue and blood vessels.

Putting you first

Risks of a CT scan

The scan involves exposure to radiation (x-rays) and the amount you receive will depend upon the type of scan you are having. It has been deemed necessary for you to have a scan as it will be of benefit to you.

If you receive the contrast injection (x-ray dye). As with all drugs there is a slight risk of side effects including sneezing, rashes and nausea. You may also experience some bruising at the cannula site where the injection is given.

X-rays and Pregnancy

Due to the potential risks to an unborn child, we need to know, for certain examinations, if there is any possibility of a patient being pregnant.

All patients between the ages of 12 years and 54 years will be asked if there is the possibility of pregnancy. Discussion will be carried out in private and in confidence.

Data Protection information

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust will manage your information in line with the General Data Protection Regulation 2018. 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 713454 or email info.gov@wsh.nhs.uk

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 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.

Further information can be found at: Protecting your information (GDPR) (wsh.nhs.uk)

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

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