

## Having a Chest X-ray and possible CT scan

Your GP has referred you for a Chest X-ray. If you are over 17 you can go to the **Radiology Department at Glenfield Hospital between 8.30 am & 4.30 pm Mon – Fri; No appointment is required.** For appointments at Leicester General Hospital please ring the booking team on 0116 2588765 option 5. If you want to attend a community hospital you will need to ring between 8.30am and 4.30pm for an appointment;

Rutland	01572 772002	Hinckley	01455 441039
Melton	01664 854913	Coalville	01530 467443
Loughborough	01509 564288	St Luke's Treatment Centre	01858 438127

Appointments are available Mon – Fri from 9.15 am–4.30 pm at most of the hospitals.

The results of your chest x-ray will not be available immediately. A radiologist (doctor) or specialist radiographer (x-ray professional) will look at the images in detail and compile a report of the results of your x-ray images after you have left the department.

Occasionally, we find a shadow on the chest x-ray when we look at it to report the results. If this happens we will book a CT scan to look at your chest in more detail. There are several reasons why there may be a shadow on the chest x-ray; however it is important to check whether there is any suggestion of lung cancer.

If you do not get a call within 7 days of your chest x-ray to have a CT scan, the results of your chest x-ray can be obtained from your GP practice.

If you do need to have a CT scan as well, you will receive a telephone call from one of our administrative staff who will book you in for your CT scan but if we cannot speak to you we will send an appointment in the post to avoid delays. The administrative staff will not be able to discuss the reasons for the scan but will make the appointment for the earliest time available. CT scans will be at the Glenfield hospital in the morning. **It is important that you attend for your scan if contacted.**

### **How to prepare for the chest x-ray examination**

No preparation for this x-ray examination is required. However, it may be helpful to wear loose clothes without zips or clips. You will be asked to remove any necklaces and clothing with metal (including bras).

### **What happens during the chest x-ray examination and how long will it take?**

On arrival at the radiology department reception your attendance will be registered on the computer system. You will be directed to the relevant waiting area and may be asked to change into a hospital gown (you will keep this on for the chest x-ray to preserve your dignity). You will be taken into the examination room where the x-ray will be explained to you and you may ask any questions that you have. You will then be positioned, standing (if you are able), for the examination and you will need to keep still. You will be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds. Staff will be able to see and hear you at all times.

A chest x-ray usually only takes a few minutes to be done. Occasionally, depending on how busy the department is, you may have to wait a short time to be seen. You will not need more than 1 hour on the pay & display car park. You can go home straight after the chest x-ray. Please note that the staff will not be able to give you any results at this time.

### **What happens during the CT examination if I need one and how long will it take?**

On arrival at the Radiology Department for your CT scan appointment you may be asked to change into a hospital gown which you will keep on during the examination. You will be taken into the scan room where the examination will be explained to you and you may ask any questions that you have.

You will be asked to lie still on the scan table and to hold your breath several times during the examination. The radiographer will tell you over the intercom when to do this. If you have any difficulties lying flat or holding your breath for short periods (up to 20 seconds) please tell the staff on arrival. An injection of a contrast agent (a colourless liquid that shows up on x-rays and CT scans) into a vein in your arm may be necessary to show your blood vessels. The supervising radiologist will decide this before your scan and you will be fully informed.

A CT would normally take up to 20 minutes however after the CT scan you will be directed to see a Lung Nurse Specialist before you go home. You should expect to be in the hospital for up to an hour in total.

### **How will I get the results of the CT scan (and associated chest x-ray result)?**

When you see the Lung Nurse Specialist on the day of your CT scan, they will tell you how and when you will get your results.

The GP who referred you for the x-ray will be kept informed of your care.

**If you are called back for a CT scan and wish to speak to someone about your health you should contact your practice for further information. It is important that you attend for the CT scan if contacted. If you wish to speak to someone about your CT appointment booking, please ring the radiology department on 0116 2588765 option 6.**