

# Having a follow-up chest X-ray and possibly a CT scan of your chest

Department of Radiology

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Information for Patients

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This leaflet tells you why you have been sent an appointment for another chest X-ray, and what might happen next if you also need to have a CT scan of your chest.

## Follow-up chest X-ray

Your recent chest X-ray has been looked at by a doctor (radiologist) or radiographer who specialises in X-ray tests. They have recommended a follow up chest X-ray in 5 to 6 weeks. The appointment letter attached is for this follow up chest X-ray.

## How to get ready for the chest X-ray?

You do not need to do anything to get ready for the X-ray before you come to the hospital.

## What happens during the chest X-ray and how long will it take?

When you arrive at the Radiology Department reception you will be directed to the relevant waiting area. You will be asked to take off any necklaces and clothing with metal (including bra) and may be asked to change into a hospital gown. You may have to wait a short time to be called in for your X-ray, depending on how busy the department is. You will be taken into the X-ray room where the X-ray will be explained to you. You will then be positioned for the examination (standing if you are able). You will need to keep still. You will be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds when the X-ray is taken.

Having a chest X-ray usually only takes a few minutes. You should only need to park for an hour.

## What happens after the chest X-ray?

You can go home straight after the chest X-ray. The person who does your X-ray will not be able to give you any results. Your chest X-ray will be looked at by a radiologist or specialist radiographer. Your results will go to your GP. The results will be available after 7 days.

**Health information and support is available at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)  
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

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To give feedback about this information sheet, contact [InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)

## Follow-up CT scan

If a shadow is seen on the follow-up chest X-ray we will book you a CT scan to look at your chest and lungs in more detail. There are several reasons why there may be a shadow on a chest X-ray. It is important to have a CT scan to check if it could be lung cancer.

If you need to have a CT scan we will call you within 7 days of your 2nd chest X-ray to book an appointment for your CT scan. If we cannot speak to you we will send you an appointment in the post to avoid delays. The booking 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 come for your scan if you are contacted.**

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

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

You will be asked to lay down and keep still on the scan table. You must hold your breath several times during the scan. The radiographer will tell you over the intercom when to do this. If you have any difficulties lying flat or holding your breath for a short time (up to 20 seconds) please tell the staff on arrival. You may need an injection of a contrast liquid (a colourless liquid that shows up on X-rays and CT scans) into a vein in your arm to show your blood vessels on the scan. You will be told if this is needed.

A CT scan normally takes up to 20 minutes.

## What happens after the CT scan?

After the CT scan you will see a Lung Nurse Specialist before you go home. Most patients will be with the Lung Nurse Specialist for up to 30 minutes. 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 for a CT scan and wish to speak to someone about your health before you come for the scan you should contact your GP practice for further information.

If you wish to speak to someone about your CT appointment booking, please ring the radiology department on **0116 258 8765 option 6**.

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔  
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

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