Where is the Nuclear Medicine Department?

We are located in the basement of the Tower Block. On reaching the basement follow the signs to Nuclear Medicine, which is at the end of the corridor past Medical Physics.

Contact us

If you have any queries or need any further information, please contact the Nuclear Medicine department on 01872 252330.

If for any reason you cannot attend, please inform us so that another patient can have your appointment.

Please note that the Royal Cornwall Hospital is a smoke-free environment. Smoking is not permitted inside the hospital or on the grounds at any time.

If you would like this leaflet in large print, braille, audio version or in another language, please contact the General Office on 01872 252690

NHS
Royal Cornwall Hospitals
NHS Trust

Heart scan (MUGA)

One+all | we care

Who is this leaflet for?

Your doctor would like you to have a nuclear medicine heart scan and has arranged for you to visit our department. This leaflet aims to answer any questions you may have, but please don't hesitate to contact us if you need any more information.

What is a MUGA heart scan?

This is a sensitive test which shows how well your heart is working. It provides information about the blood flow through your heart and how well it pumps blood around your body.

Do I need to prepare for the scan?

No, but we advise you to wear loose and comfortable clothing. Eat and drink normally and keep taking your prescribed medication.

What will happen?

When you arrive in the department you will be given an injection, which will prepare your red blood cells.

About 30 minutes later you will be taken into the camera room and asked to lie on your back on a couch. The radiographer will attach some ECG leads to your chest. You will then be given a second injection, which will contain a small amount of radioactive tracer. It is very unlikely that you will have any side effects from either of these injections.

How is the scan performed?

You will be asked to lie still on a bed for about 20 minutes, while the radiographer takes pictures. The camera will be positioned at the side of you, but you will not usually need to remove any clothing.

Is it suitable for everyone?

If there is a chance that you may be pregnant or you are breast-feeding, please contact us before your appointment date. If you are a woman of childbearing age, we will ask you to confirm that they are not pregnant. If there is any doubt we will have to rebook your test.

If you have any special requirements regarding mobility problems or if you suffer from urinary incontinence, please inform us before you attend for your appointment so that we can make suitable arrangements to help you.

Are there any risks?

We ensure that the amount of radiation you receive is as small as possible. It is similar to the natural radiation dose you would receive from living in Cornwall for 8 months.

Are there any side effects?

No, the radioactivity is eliminated from your body very quickly.

Do I need to take any precautions?

No.

Can I bring someone with me to the department?

Yes, but please do not bring pregnant women or children unless they are the patient.

When will I get my results?

We are unable to give you the results of your scan on the day you attend. We will send a report to the doctor who asked us to do the scan as soon as possible. If a hospital consultant arranged your scan, a follow up appointment will be arranged for you.

Where can I park?

Parking is in the pay and display car parks. There are 'dropping off' points and parking for the disabled near the main entrances. Please allow plenty of time when coming for your appointment.

We recommend the Park and Ride service at Langarth (West Truro) and Tregurra (East Truro) which operates a frequent bus service to the Hospital.

www.cornwall.gov.uk/parkfortruro